BUSINESS / B1
Teves says RP fiscal situation 'very serious'

ACROSS / A15
Bid to divide Quezon seen to split officials

WORLD / A20
UK police nab 5, hunt more suspects amid fears of new al-Qaida-style attack

WORLD / A20
Terror threat fails to dampen concert for Diana organized by sons

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, July 3, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 205 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Flatten belly, enlarge breasts without surgery

PARIS—EVER DREAMED of shifting around body fat to flatten your tummy and boost your bust all without surgery? Or maybe blocking that ample fat?

According to an international study published

FLATTEN/ A6

BLUFF CALLED. Last week, Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol dared authorities to come and get him. Yesterday, the police did. He was arrested in Davao City where he was undergoing medical treatment. Photo taken on June 27 in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bedol arrested finally in Davao

Exec to answer raps before Comelec today

By Alcuin Papa, Nikko Dizon, Jocelyn R. Uy and Inquirer Mindanao

IN THE END, THE FIGHT HAD APPARENTLY GONE OUT of Lintang Bedol.

After daring the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to sue him, the embattled Maguindanao provincial election supervisor—who once claimed to owning more than 20 guns, including an Uzi—offered no resistance when police came to arrest him in a hospital in Davao City the other night, an official said yesterday.

"He had no guns in his possession and there was no resistance on his part. It seemed he expected his arrest," Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon told the INQUIRER.

"By midnight, he was already under our custody."

Bedol was flown to Manila late last night and was to be presented today to Comelec officials, who had ordered his arrest after he refused to heed previous summonses to appear before the agency.

Guarded by a SWAT team, Bedol swept through the airport terminal building without answering questions that reporters shouted to him.

Suffering from what police said was an

BEDOL/ A6

Koko lead over Migz now down to 2,706

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Allison W. Lopez

ALLEGEDLY TYPEWRITTEN ENTRIES ON election returns and "statistically improbable" results were among the reasons Genuine Opposition (GO) senatorial candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel yesterday gave for asking the Commission on Elections to retabulate the vote tallies in seven towns in Mindanao.

This as Miguel Zubiri of Team Unity (TU) cut Pimentel's lead to 2,706 after the Comelec sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) tabulated the certificates of canvass (CoCs) from Shariff Kabunsuan towns Barira and Kabuntalan and corrected vote tallies from Tamparan, Lanao del Sur.

Pimentel's lawyer, Francisco Joaquin III, identified the seven towns as Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Matungao and Salvador in Lanao del Norte; Patikul and Luuk, Sulu; Sultan Kudarat in Shariff Kabunsuan, and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat.

Pimentel said Zubiri garnered some 106,000 votes from these towns, which had been credited to the TU candidate's official

KOKO LEAD/ A6

DOJ execs cite Jalosjos case to oppose Trillanes bid

By Leila B. Salaverria

SEN. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV CANNOT use the more than 11 million votes he received in the May elections to seek preferential treatment, like attending Senate sessions and setting up an office in his detention cell, Department of Justice prosecutors said yesterday.

The prosecutors said they represented not only those who voted for Trillanes but also the more than 85 million Filipinos.

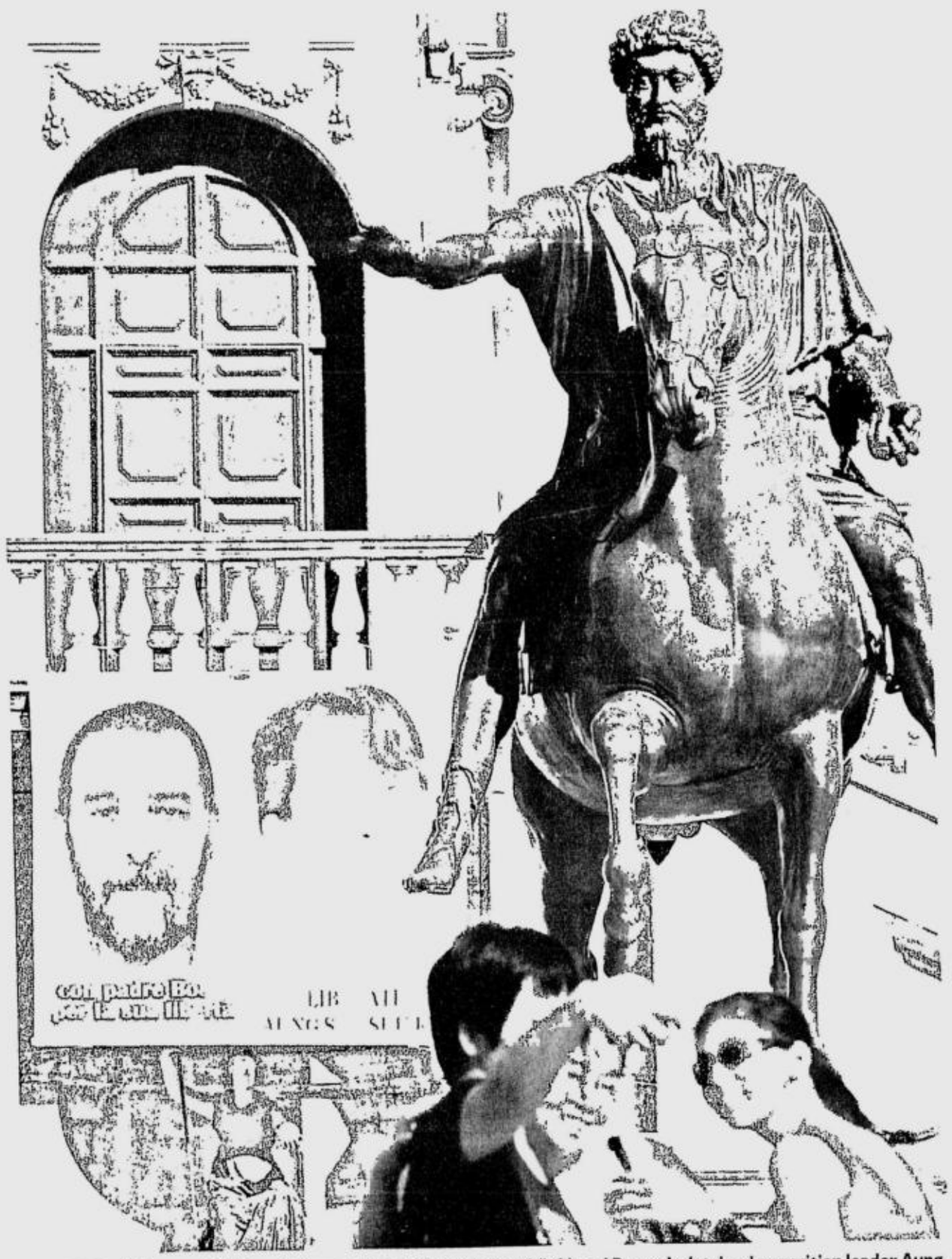
Trillanes, charged with coup d'etat for leading the failed Oakwood mutiny in July 2003, is standing trial at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

In opposing Trillanes' requests, which included access to the media and meetings with his staff at the Marine brig in Fort Bonifacio where he is detained, the prosecutors cited the Supreme Court ruling in the case of former lawmaker Romeo Jalosjos.

The high court said that being in an elective post was no reason to free someone from prison or give him special treatment.

Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist, served

DOJ EXECS/ A5



POSTERS of kidnapped Italian missionary priest Giancarlo Bossi (left) and Burma's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (right) are prominently displayed outside Rome's City Hall. Italy is sending Margherita Boniver, a prominent lawmaker, to the Philippines today "to work for a positive conclusion" to Bossi's abduction. Suu Kyi has been in prison or under house arrest for more than 11 years. AP

BOSSI ABDUCTION

Italy sends top woman envoy to RP

ROME—ITALY IS SENDING A top envoy to the Philippines to work for the release of Italian missionary priest Giancarlo Bossi, who was kidnapped on June 10.

A veteran of several humanitarian missions when she was a foreign ministry official for many years, Margherita Boniver, now a prominent lawmaker, will travel to the Philippines on Tuesday "to work for a positive conclusion" to the abduction of Bossi, the foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

In Manila, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said on Monday indications were strong that Bossi was alive and that more troops had been deployed to join the massive search for him.

He declined to provide details to avoid disrupting the efforts to free the priest or force the kidnappers to move him to another location.

According to the Magna Carta Foundation, Boniver was elected senator for the Italian Socialist Party in Milan in 1980. She founded the Italian Section of Amnesty International

ITALY/ A8

Gonzales says leftist propaganda successful

By Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria

ON HIS FIRST DAY AS DEFENSE DEPARTment caretaker, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday slammed leftist groups for spreading "lies" about the Armed Forces—and conceded they had been successful in their propaganda campaign.

In an impromptu speech after taking over as officer in charge from outgoing Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Gonzales stressed this could not be allowed to go on.

"The enemies of our people, the enemies of the state have been very successful in showing as if we are the ones doing wrong when we're offering our lives in the defense of what we know to be the best for our people, our freedom, our democracy," Gonzales said.

"We are accused of extrajudicial killings. This cannot be allowed to happen," he said.

Gonzales was referring to claims by the Left and militant organizations that the military was behind a number of political killings—a charge that has raised concerns among the Philippines' own allies in the international community.

GONZALES / A8

Gov't to treat terrorists just like criminals

By DJ Yap and Christine O. Avendaño

ORDINARY CRIMINALS ARE UNDISCIplined and untrained, while terrorists are committed and willing to die for their cause, a former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff said yesterday.

But, in spite of the distinction, there's "a little secret" in military circles about how to act around them, said retired Gen. Benjamin Defensor, also a former Air Force chief.

"Ironically, one of the best ways to deal with terrorists is to treat them like criminals," Defensor said in what could be an ominous sign for suspected enemies of the state.

Twelve days before the Human Security Act (HSA), or Republic Act No. 9372, takes effect, Defensor gave a telling glimpse of the military perspective on terrorists as he addressed the Air Force chiefs of Southeast Asian nations at a symposium in Makati City.

In his speech titled "A Way Against Ter-

GOV'T/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2007

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon And Visayas, Bicol Region and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI GUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/02/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Party-list results still in limbo

By Nikko Dizon

THE DILEMMA OVER WHICH PARTY-LIST FORmula to use has appeared to put the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in a bind, apparently delaying the proclamation of the party-list winners in the May elections.

"We will abide by the Supreme Court and use the Panganiban formula. But the commission also has to listen and study the several petitions filed by party-list organizations for us to use the 2-4-6 formula before we make any proclamation," Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

Sarmiento said the contention of most party-list organizations was that if the Panganiban formula were to be applied, "there would be lesser (party-list) representation" in the House of Representatives.

The Panganiban formula, also known as the first-party rule, is named after former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who devised the scheme that would determine how many seats a party-list would have based on the number of votes the group received.

Under the formula, the additional number of seats of a party-list group is pegged on the number of votes of the first or No. 1 party following the 2-percent threshold.

Panganiban created the formula to resolve the case of the Veterans Federation Party et al. v Comelec in 2000.

In the 2-4-6 formula, a party-list group that gets six percent of the total number of votes cast for party-list groups is entitled to three seats, a party-list group with four percent will get two seats, and a party-list with two percent will get one seat.

Neri Colmenares, Bayan Muna lawyer and third nominee, told the INQUIRER that there were still some 1.2 million votes that had yet to be canvassed by the subcommittee of the National Board of Canvassers from at least five provinces that include Zamboanga del Sur, Basilan and North Cotabato.

The vote tallies in these provinces have been deferred because of allegations of vote padding.

"Anybody could still be the first party with these 1.2 million votes still uncanvassed. What if one party suddenly gets a boost from these untabulated returns and gets some 600,000 votes?" Colmenares said.

Colmenares said the Comelec should immediately resolve the pending petitions.

"The first-party rule is causing instability in the party-list [system] because everyone else's proclamation hinges on the fortunes of the first party. The Comelec will have a difficult time proclaiming [the winners] as long as the 1.2 million votes remain uncanvassed," he said.

Colmenares said the Comelec should make a partial proclamation without prejudice to the resolution of the pending issues.

Moreover, a partial proclamation would also allow party-list organizations like Bayan Muna to be able to participate and vote in the speakership fight in the House of Representatives.

As of June 15, the official Comelec count for party-list groups showed the El Shaddai group, Buhay, leading with 1.13 million votes followed by Bayan Muna with 945,468 votes.

The rest of the official tally is as follows: Cibac, 744,647; Gabriela, 590,334; Apec, 510,635; A Teacher, 462,599; Akbayan, 444,005; Alagad, 416,568; Butil, 404,667;

Batas, 379,390; Coop Natcco, 359,204; Anakpawis, 353,616; Abono, 334,227; Agap, 321,688; ARC, 313,806.

Any changes in Cabinet to be minimal, says Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is satisfied with her Cabinet as it is now composed and further changes would be specific rather than broad, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

If any more changes would be forthcoming, Ermita said, they would be piece-meal and the bulk of the reshuffle would involve only appointees in government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions.

Ermita, counted among the Cabinet officials rumored to be headed for the chopping block, fended off talk that the President intended to overhaul the Cabinet.

The talk was prompted by the weekend's appointment of Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro as the new defense secretary and the return of retired Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane to his old post at the helm of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Ermita told reporters that two key changes did not a revamp make.

"If only one has been changed, you already consider it a revamp. But what better proof than the President reissuing their appointment for the ad interim for some 12 of them? It's all up to you how you look at it," he said, referring to the Cabinet secretaries who had been repeatedly snubbed by the Commission on Appointments.

Ermita conceded that the President might be keeping her plans to herself and was not giving away anything even to any of her closest advisers.

"I think I'm close enough to the President and yet it was only last Thursday that the President told me about this. Let's give it to her, she has her own decisions," said Ermita.

Before Malacañang announced the appointments of Teodoro and Ebdane, the President had fired Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mari Bunag amid post-election talks that she had grown weary of her Cabinet especially because of their failure to deliver victory for her handpicked candidates in the senatorial elections.

A Palace source said that the President was disappointed that some members of the Cabinet had been too preoccupied with helping their children win local posts rather than hewing to their assignment of helping the administration's TEAM Unity. Ermita's son, Edwin, lost the vice-gubernatorial race in Batangas.

Ermita said that the appointments of Teodoro and Ebdane, announced after he denied there was a revamp, "is just following the line that the President, at any time, can choose to change the Cabinet because after all everyone serves at the pleasure of the President and it could happen anytime that the President makes new designations."

Ermita said that while the President did not explain the return of Ebdane to the DPWH, he surmised that Ms Arroyo wanted to have continuity in the implementation of major infrastructure projects.

Ermita also defended the selection of Teodoro, nephew of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, crony of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"Just look at his credentials. He looks good, he is a lawyer, he is a bar topnotcher. He has been a lawmaker for nine years and he is now the head of NPC (Nationalist People's Coalition). He has courses in the command general staff college, in the joint staff college and he has a lot of exposure in the military.

DESIGNATED Officer in Charge of the Department of National Defense Norberto Gonzales (left), outgoing Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane (center) and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita share a joke after turnover ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. The President over the weekend named Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro the new defense secretary and brought Ebdana back to his old post as secretary of public works and highways. JOAN BONDOC

Government looking at different approach to Reds – Gonzales

By Christine O. Avendaño

AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE AND maybe the government would take a "different approach" when it comes to tagging the communist New People's Army (NPA) as a terrorist group, National Security Adviser and newly designated officer in charge of the Department of National Defense Norberto Gonzales told communist leaders yesterday.

Gonzales made the statement as he disclosed that he was in Norway two weeks ago to look into the "possibility" of resuming peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front.

As for the "terrorist" tag, this is in line with the new Human Security Act or antiterror law, which takes effect on July 15.

"I think if we want to be in sync with the rest of the world, let us prioritize organizations already labeled as terrorist by the world," such as the Islamic militant groups—Abu Sayyaf, Rajah Solaiman and al Qaida—as examples.

Asked whether the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA should be tagged or "proscribed" by the government as terrorist, he said this would be studied "very seriously."

The CPP-NPA had been labeled terrorist by the European community, he added.

Asked whether as DND officer in charge he would recommend the CPP-NPA be included in the list of terrorists as required by the antiterror law, he said: "What I'm thinking is if we could have a ceasefire (agreement with the NPA), then the attitude toward proscription will be different as far as the communists are concerned."

"I wish that they will consider a ceasefire," Gonzales said of the NPA.

But he said a ceasefire would not mean that the government would no longer label the NPA as terrorist, adding that it was not for him to make such decisions.

Gonzales said that he hoped the country could learn lessons from government's peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front where the level of violence in Mindanao tapered down after the two sides signed a ceasefire.

BIR exec axed for hiding assets

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has fired a regional director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in Mindanao for failing to disclose for three years his real estate holdings in his personal assets report.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) has reported that the President had affirmed its recommendation to dismiss BIR Region 15 Director Hadji Mama Bae Marzoc for failing to declare in his 2003, 2004 and 2005 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth eight properties in Cotabato City.

Marzoc's dismissal would mean the cancellation of his civil service eligibility, forfeiture of leave credits and retirement benefits, and disqualification from reemployment in government.

The decision to dismiss was announced by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on June 25 or four months after the PAGC made the recommendation. The case was initiated by a letter-complaint from a Manchang Ang submitted in December 2005.

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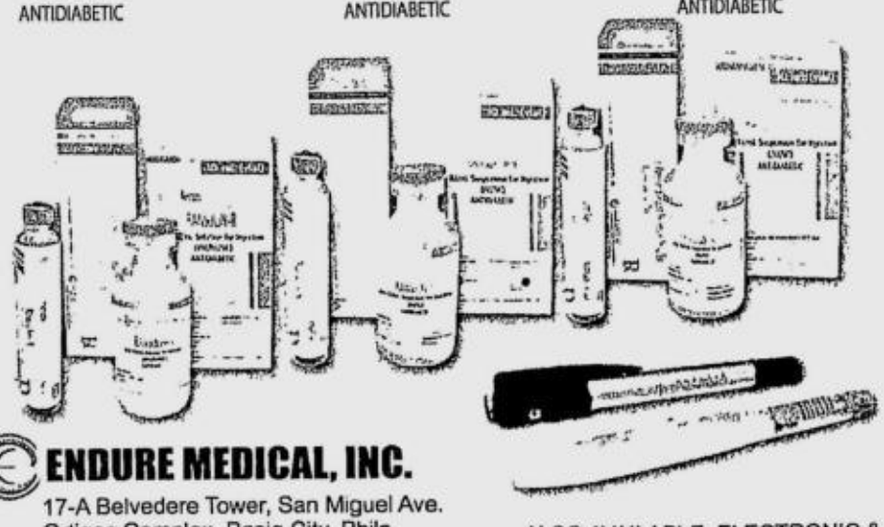

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FORGET FRYING, BOILING, SCRAMBLING

Now, 50 ways to cook your eggs

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

BOCAUE, BULACAN—TIRED OF the usual fried, boiled and scrambled eggs?

Fret no more. The National Nutrition Council (NNC) and other government agencies will be releasing a book featuring at least 50 recipes to guide households on the many alternative and varied ways of cooking eggs.

The book, "Mga piling lutuing itlog—tunay na pampalusog (Selected recipes for eggs—truly nutritious)," will be launched in time for the annual poultry show of the National Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines (NFEPP) in September.

The book project is being implemented by NNC with the help of the Livestock Development Council of the Department of Agriculture (LDCDA), the Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and the Philippine Information Agency.

Estacio "Tux" Siddayao, NFEPP information officer, said the book will highlight recipes from various regions in the country.

Among the dishes featured are the nutri-egg congee from Marinduque, egg pasta delight from Cagayan Valley, "pinagsapin-saping itlog" and egg clam noodle soup from Southern Tagalog, and egg potato meal from Eastern Visayas.

Gregorio San Diego, NFEPP president, said his group sought the assistance of the NNC to promote the local egg industry.

San Diego said the P26-billion industry has suffered a slump in sales in recent years as many Filipinos ate less eggs due to the belief that these are high in cholesterol.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, in a message in the book's draft, said studies show that eggs, taken in moderation, are not bad for one's health.

Duque praised the book project, saying it would benefit Filipino families and guide them in preparing cheap but healthy and delicious food.

San Diego said the prices of eggs this year are at its highest in three years. The farm gate price of a medium-sized egg in June was P3.58 apiece, up from P2.80 in 2004.

He said the higher price was due to an increased demand at a time when supply was low.

He attributed this to the failure of the big breeding farms in the country to import chickens from Germany and other parts of Europe due to a reported incidence of bird flu there in 2005. The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has imposed a total ban of imported chickens and poultry products from countries where incidents of the deadly avian infection are reported.

Ruben Pacia, president of the Bulacan Egg Producers Association, said the farm gate price goes up to P4 or P5 in some parts of Bulacan.

Pacia said the improved price in Bulacan was due to an increased demand from dealers and store owners in Metro Manila who used to get their supplies from Batangas.

San Diego said eggs are currently sold in the market at between P4 and P5 each, depending on its size.

Airport cops tighten security after UK incidents

By Tarra Quismundo

AVIATION OFFICIALS, WHILE SAYING Philippine airports faced "no direct threats," have stepped up security measures in Manila's international and domestic airport terminals following the failed car bomb attacks in the United Kingdom—in London and at the airport in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG) and the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) yesterday directed airport police and security guards to heighten their vigilance at airport terminals and be on the lookout for suspicious individuals and vehicles.

Retired Gen. Angel Atutubo, Miaa's chief of Security and Emergency Services, raised the security level from low to moderate, the second in Miaa's four-alert level system for terror threats.

Moderate alert status means "a terrorist attack is possible but not likely" and that "the intent is present but capability is not monitored."

This is a step higher than the low alert level, which means there is "no information to suggest a specific and imminent terrorist attack in Metro Manila and other major political and economic centers," according to Miaa's primer on the threat system.

In line with the upgraded security, Atutubo said the agency mobilized K9 bomb detection teams at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminals 1 and 2, the Manila Domestic Airport and the cargo warehouses around the terminals.

Airport security guards and bomb-sniffing dogs were also placed on round-the-clock roving detail in parking lots around the terminals to check out suspicious vehicles, mindful that a burning car was driven into the main terminal of the airport in Glasgow.

"We placed K9 units from PNP-ASG augmented by a unit hired by Miaa. We also added security guards in parking lots just to be safe, even when there is no problem in security because all vehicles are inspected at screening gates upon entry," Atutubo said.

The attacks in London and Glasgow came almost a year after airports around the world were placed on heightened alert in August 2006 after a foiled bomb plot in Britain involving liquid bombs. The plot prompted a worldwide total ban on liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) in carry-on luggage.

The regulation has been relaxed in most airports in the UK, the United States and around Asia this year.

Survey says Filipinos don't appreciate UN human rights powers

AMONG 14 NATIONALITIES, FILIPINOS were the "most resistant" to the idea of giving the United Nations the power to investigate human rights violations in member countries and to maintain UN-commanded peacekeeping forces in conflict areas, according to recent surveys by the Social Weather Stations.

The survey, conducted as part of a study of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and WorldPublicOpinion.org, showed that 46 percent of Filipinos opposed granting the worldwide body the authority to "go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights."

This, despite the fact that the Philippines campaigned and won another term as a member of the UN Human Rights Council. Earlier this year, a UN special rapporteur was invited to the Philippines to look into the spate of extrajudicial killings in the country.

Worldwide, an average of 64 percent were in favor, 23 were not.

Support for UN investigation of human rights abuses by its members was highest among the French (92 percent), Americans (75 percent), Peruvians (75 percent) and South Koreans (74 percent).

No to peacekeeping forces

On the idea of having a standing peacekeeping force selected, trained and commanded by the UN, Filipino opposition was also highest at 44 percent.

An average of 64 percent among the 14 countries polled were in favor of such a force, whereas an average of 23 percent opposed to it.

Peruvians (77 percent) were the most supportive of a standing UN peacekeeping force, followed by Armenians (75 percent), French (74 percent), Thais (73 percent) and Americans (72 percent).

No to arms regulation

The new survey also asked about giving the UN powers to regulate the international arms trade, and the willingness of countries to make decisions within the organization even if it meant that they would sometimes have to go along with a policy "that was not their first choice."

The idea of UN regulating international arms trade was welcome in most of the countries, except the Philippines, where 58 percent were against it, and Argentina, where 42 percent likewise rejected it.

The French (77 percent) led countries supporting UN regulation of arms trade, followed by South Koreans (75 percent), Americans (60 percent) and Israelis (60 percent).

No to UN decision making

Asked whether the Philippines should be more willing to make decisions within the UN even if this means that the country will sometimes have to go along with a policy that is not its first choice, the Filipinos (46 percent) was second to Israelis (81 percent) in saying no.

An average of 45 percent among 16 countries surveyed said their country should do so; an average of 38 percent their country should not.

"The peoples from three permanent members of the UN Security Council are the most ready to accept UN decisions—Chinese (78 percent), French (68 percent) and Americans (60 percent)," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Only college grads like UN

Among Filipinos, more of those against accepting adverse UN decisions were from Metro Manila (50 percent) and classes ABC (53 percent).

Support for steps to strengthen the UN was higher among college graduates. Fifty-five percent of college graduates surveyed favored a standing UN peacekeeping force, while 54 percent agreed to allow them to go into countries to investigate human rights violations. One in every two college graduates (50 percent) favored UN regulation of international arms trade, while 40 percent of college graduates favored giving the UN the power to impose taxes in order to fund its activities.

The international surveys were conducted in 2006 by the CCGA and WPO in cooperation with polling organizations in China, India, US, Indonesia, Russia, France, Thailand, Ukraine, Poland, Iran, Mexico, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Peru, Israel, Armenia and the Palestinian Territories. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

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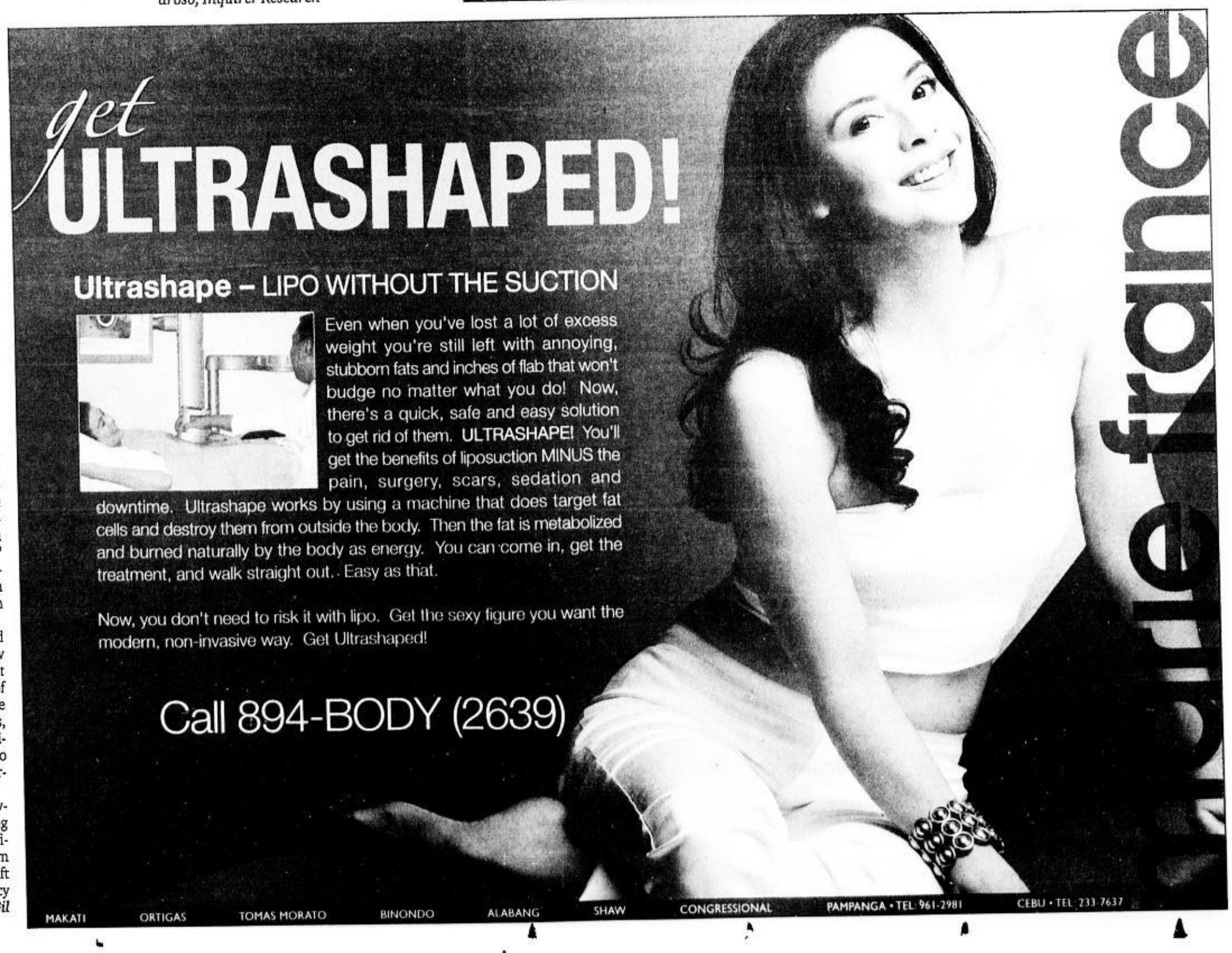
Palace wary of Lim plan

MALACAÑANG IS worried about the plan of new Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim to lift the no-rally ban on Mendiola Street which was enforced when City Hall was still ruled by one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunchest allies.

"I am very sure our local officials understand the need for certain measures to ensure that there is stability in our general environment. Mendiola is very near Malacañang and I am quite sure that the local officials here in Manila will consider that," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in an interview with reporters.

Lim has announced his plan to allow protest actions at Mendiola—the site of historic protests in the past—to activists, whether pro- or anti-administration, so long as they had permits.

Ermita said, however, that Malacañang had yet to receive official notice from Lim that he intended to lift the no-rally policy around the Palace. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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PAF ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Command policy guidelines meticulously carried out by the Philippine Air Force resulted in crucial developments in personnel performance, ISO mission and intelligent use of available resources. The general assessment sums up the annual accomplishments of the PAF as it prepares to mark 6 decades of committed service to the nation today July 1, 2007.

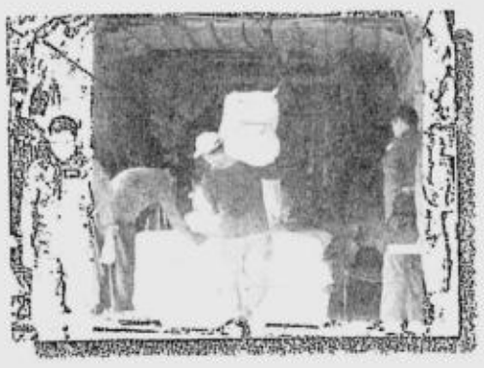
Upon assumption of Command as the 29th Commanding General of the PAF, Lt Gen Horacio S Tolentino crafted his policy guidelines that should target critical areas, thus A.C.T.I.O.N. Air Force – Action-driven, Combat Focused, Technology-based, Innovative, Organizationally Sound and Nation-building. These guidelines keenly reveal where the Air Force is heading and express the Command's desire to have more years of relevant service.

ACTION-DRIVEN

The Command accounted for an aggregate 37,800.5 flying hours in 37,550 sorties in the performance of various missions. These missions ferried a total of 126,775 military passengers, 46,766 civilians and 5,983,883 lbs. of cargoes.

The bulk of flying time was committed to Internal Security Operations (ISO), logging 22,236.1 flying hours in 22, 725.5 sorties with 4,190,179 lbs of airlifted cargoes and some 36,156 civilian passengers airlifted.

Disaster response logged a total of 2,230.6 flying hours flown in 2,805 sorties and airlifted 773,286 lbs. of cargoes. The great number of civilian passengers was accounted mainly due to the massive disaster relief undertaken in Bicol region and in other heavily affected areas of the country in the aftermath of typhoons 'Henry" and "Reming".



Some1, 019. 806 lbs. of cargoes were airlifted in 5,063 sorties that support national development. The Command accounted for 4,662.8 flying hours devoted in support of government initiatives to the different areas in the country and ferried 31,907 military and 7,450 civilian passengers for this purpose.

Flying time for territorial defense amounted to 1,543 hours, flown in 787 sorties, while other missions accounted for 6,170 sorties in 6, 128 flying hours.

COMBAT FOCUSED

The Command, notably the 710th Special Operations Wing (SPOW), significantly contributed to the over-all AFP ISO Campaign. The Command has successfully turned the battle in favor of the AFP through its intensified combat operations. From July last year to 30 April of the current year, the PAF accomplished a total of 1,947 ISO-related ground combat operations such as combat reconnaissance patrols mobile patrols, security, check-point and clearing operations and foot patrols. These operations were successfully carried out in the provinces of Batangas, Cavite, Quezon, Pampanga and Greater Manila Area. A number of these missions were conducted with different PAF units, elements of the Philippine Army and Philippine National Police particularly 24th IB and PNP-RMG.

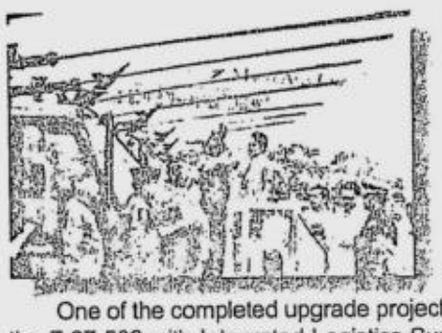
These operations resulted to the apprehension and neutralization of 31 CTs (Communist-Terrorist), the surrender of 11 NPAs, a Communist-Terrorist killed in an encounter and the recovery of a huge cache' of subversive documents and different kinds of weapons and armaments.

On the other hand, special operations conducted by the 772nd Explosives and Ordnance Squadron (EOS) and 773rd K-9s Kennels of 710th SPOW performed a total of 6,792 sorties of technical/preventive assistance and paneling to clear and secure crucial areas and facilities from explosive and contrabands. These include the regular and selected paneling of Air Force/military flights and facilities, civilian and government installations as well as high profile engagements and activities all over the country.

Additionally, the Command has responded to 30 bomb threats in various areas nationwide. A total of 162 assorted pieces of explosive ordinance (UXOs) and other devices were recovered from various locations - Crow Valley, Batangas, Quezon, Pampanga, Manila, Cebu and Davao.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED

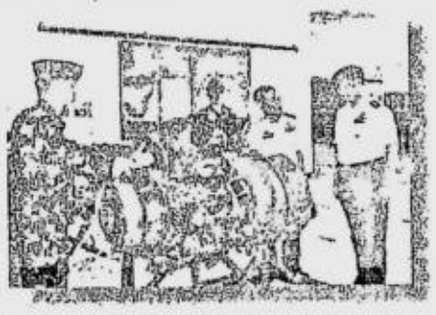
The latest PAF acquisition in May of this year are 11 helicopters – 1 of which is the last batch of 6 for Excess Defense Acquisition and 10 POTUS (President of the United States) UH-1H helicopters acquired through FMS (Foreign Military Sales) from the United States and refurbished through the AFP Modernization Program. After final compliance to specifications were met, the batch of helicopters are deemed operationally ready and will be dispatched soon to boost ISO operations.



One of the completed upgrade projects includes the acquisition of the F-27-500 with Integrated Logistics Support (ILS). The refurbished F-27-500 medium lift aircraft has an upgraded engine – 2 Rolls Royce Dart Mk 536-7R, greater payload and capacity – 48 to 52/6-8 litter patient for medical evacuation - and equipped with modern avionics system at par with standards set by the Federal Aviation Authority /International Civil Aviation Organization,

Inspection Repair As Necessary (IRAN) of an LC-10, an aircraft usually commissioned to perform rainmaking sorties in areas experiencing extreme drought, was also completed.

From April 2006 to March of this year, other completed projects include (a) upgrade of UH-1H #662, the PAF's second Huey Upgrade, (b) major repair of 4 UH-1H helicopter, (c) recovery of a helicopter, (d) major structural repair of 4 EDA UH-1H, (e) overhaul and testing of 19 T-53 and 4 reciprocating engines; (f) repair and overhaul of 163 helicopter components and 14 propeller and governor assemblies of fixed-wing aircraft, (g) bench check and repair of 576 Radio, Electrical and Instruments (REI) components and (h) the calibration of 234 Precision Measuring Equipment (PME).



Supplementing these completed projects were 2,958 Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI) and other maintenance support to various types of aircraft utilized for various types of missions in the different air bases throughout the archipelago.

INNOVATIVE

The cutting edge advantage in capability build-up is a result of a deliberate yet thorough means of implementing structural changes.

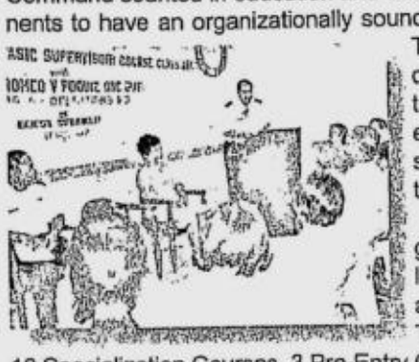
Over at the 5th Fighter Group under the Air Defense Wing, the AS-211 aircraft was transformed into an ISO platform, capable and ready for tactical employment without sacrificing its role in external security.

The innovative "Falcon Project" Weapons capability introduced enhancements made to the AS-211 aircraft that include the completion of the installation of the hard points for belly gun pods (.50 Caliber Guns) and upgrade of the sight system by installing more reliable F-5 optical sights. To further increase the S-211's firepower, plans of installing HVAR are currently on progress. Initial tests showed positive and promising results. However, more tests are being made to ensure safety. A study on GPS level bombing is also being conducted to provide further precision on bomb deliveries. To date, a total of 5 AS-211 aircraft have completed tests.

The same spirit of innovativeness and ingenuity was replicated in the different PAF units. However diverse the missions maybe, the collective aim is to contribute to the overall mission of the Command in particular, and the AFP in general.

ORGANIZATIONALLY SOUND

Banking on its most important asset – human resources – the Command counted in education and training among the major components to have an organizationally sound and technical savvy airmen.



The PAF initiated the conduct of local unit and individual training/schooling and facilitated the processing of selected students slated for foreign training.

A recap of the programmed training schedule listed a total of 127 foreign and local individual courses. These included 17 Career and 10 Specialization Courses, 3 Pre-Entry Courses, 7 Scholarship grants, 10 BTBT (Back to Basics Training), 6 Civilian Training and 74 Foreign Courses. Some 4,303 candidates attended and successfully completed the aforementioned courses.

A number of unit trainings were also completed to enhance the operational effectiveness of PAF units in diverse mission categories as well as skills upgrading of pilots and crew and maintenance personnel. These courses also include interoperability training between PAF and other service units. Some 243 unit trainings/ courses were conducted that focus on Internal Security and Territorial Defense operations, Disaster Preparedness, National Development and other specialized unit training. The number of unit training benefited 7,087 individuals.

The Command's active participation in bilateral military exercises with foreign counterparts such as TALON VISION '07, PHILBEX, Mal-Phi CARI-SAGIP Bilateral Search and Rescue Exercise, among others, developed disaster preparedness as well as mutual cooperation between foreign military forces.

NATION BUILDING

During the holding of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the PAF also provided a number of personnel to helped in securing Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base and Mactan-Cebu International Airport in the ground and in the air. The presence of these vigilant security contingent resulted to the peaceful hosting of the summit

The great number of civilian passengers and cargoes noted in the records of air operations this year (2,230.6 flying hours flown in 2,805 sorties and 773, 286 lbs. of cargoes) accounted for civilians during and after natural and man-made disasters.

A day after the destruction brought by Typhoon "Reming", a composite group of military personnel from resident units of Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base assisted school officials, teachers and parents of Villamor Air Base Elementary School to repair roofs of classrooms and clear the school grounds of fallen trees and leaves. Groups of PAF personnel were likewise sent to assist other heavily damaged schools in the metropolis and even in the provinces a week before classes for the second semester started.

As committed environment advocates, the Command participated in the beautification, cleanliness drive and coastal clean up drives to preserve coastal waters. Another activity that drew huge participation was DENR's "Green Philippines Highway" a nation wide tree-planting activity. A total of 6,772 tree seedlings and 4,610 military personnel joined the activity..

Medical and dental sorties for indigenous people in remote areas and marginalized urban communities accounted for 104 sorties where 87,851 medical cases were treated with 6, 942 dental cases were attended to. Some 1, 416 circumcision/ surgery cases were likewise performed; 3, 070 optical cases were treated and provided with free prescription eyeglasses; 3,513 malnourished children benefited from feeding services conducted in designated areas. Other medical services rendered include cancer detection tests to some 148 patients

In the same vein, the PAF's project Saving Life for a Drop of Blood generated 297,450 cc of blood donated by 1,604 Air Force personnel and reservists. The project was açcomplished in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross, V.Luna Medical Center.

A hundred airmen also participated in the Alay-Lakad Walk for a Cause sponsored by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. PAF runners and marathon teams supported the DND-AFP Gintong Pangarap Fun Run; 150 personnel joined STEP-UP, a fund raising and health-consciousness campaign sponsored by Coca-Cola; and many other fund-raising events.

With the theme: "Soaring In Action for Peace, Nation-Building and Regional Stability" encapsulating 60 rewarding years of service and support to the Filipino people, the Philippine Air Force rekindles the same zeal and fervor of its forebears and renews its vow to the nation.

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN
Manila

Warmest greetings to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) as you celebrate your 60th Anniversary.

On July 4, 1947, the PAF became a major command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and operationally and administratively independent of the Philippine Army. For the past six decades, you have proven to be one of the leading forces in preserving our national sovereignty and protecting our territorial integrity.

As you celebrate your 60th Anniversary, may you continue to uphold the will of our people and exemplify courage and professionalism especially during great national challenges. May your organization soar even higher in the coming years and remain a reliable ally of government in our national development efforts as reflected in your theme, *"Soaring in Action for Peace, Nation-Building, and Regional Stability."*

Let the Philippine Air Force remain a bastion of integrity and excellence. Mabuhay ang Hukbong Panghipapawid ng Pilipinas!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO
QUEZON CITY

I extend my sincerest greetings to the officers, staff, and civilian personnel of the Philippine Air Force as you celebrate your 60th Anniversary.

The men and women of the Philippine Air Force have proven to be ever-ready and ever-willing to perform with professionalism and bravery. Your anniversary theme, "Soaring in Action for Peace, Nation Building, and Regional Stability," highlights your stead fast commitment to work with Defense Establishment and our government in our quest for peace and development in our country and on global scale. It is also timely as it is consistent with the Defense for Development Agenda which calls for a more relevant, responsive, and results-oriented posture.

Together, we will continue to work hand-in-hand for growth in the grassroots even as we reach for the skies. Together, we will make defense work for development.

Mabuhay!

HERMOGENES E EBDANE, JR.
SECRETARY

A.C.T.I.O.N. AIR FORCE

DOJ execs cite Jalosjos case to oppose Trillanes bid

From page A1

as Zamboanga del Norte representative even while serving his life terms. His sentence has since been commuted. (*See In the Know.*)

While in detention, Trillanes ran as a Genuine Opposition candidate and placed 11th in the senatorial race.

Nonbailable

In an opposition filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court, Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon, State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera and Prosecution Attorney Amanda Felipe noted that Trillanes' case was nonbailable.

The Supreme Court ruling on Jalosjos' case said there should be no special treatment for an elected official who is a nonbailable prisoner, the prosecutors said.

"The performance of legitimate and essential duties by public officers has never been an excuse to free a person validly in prison," the high court said, as quoted by the DOJ. "Congress continues to function well in the physical absence of one or a few of its members."

Popular will to serve

In his motion seeking permission to attend Senate sessions and official functions, and to set up office at his detention cell, Trillanes said his 11 million votes were an expression of the "popular will and sovereign decree of the people" for him to serve them as a lawmaker even while in detention.

He also asked that a personal desktop computer and appropriate communication devices, like telephone lines and Internet access, be installed in his room so that he could work there when there are no sessions. The cost of these could be charged to his office in the Senate, he said.

Interviews

The detained senator also asked that he be allowed to give interviews and air his comments, reactions and opinions to the media about important issues that affect the country while in the Senate or performing his duties as a lawmaker.

Trillanes said the request was "to help shape public policy and in light of the important role of the Senate in maintaining the system of checks and balances between the three co-equal branches of Government."

Trillanes also asked that, with prior notice to the court and to his custodians, he be allowed media interviews in his detention center on Tuesdays and Fridays, particularly when there are no Senate sessions and hearings.

Media access stopped

His request for media access was denied.

The prosecutors said that they, the defense lawyers and Makati RTC Judge Oscar Pimentel reached a consensus on June 7 that there be no more media access to Trillanes after his proclamation. Trillanes was proclaimed on June 15.

The prosecutors said his requests were short of stating that a senator was above the law and would render ineffective the restrictions on him as a crime suspect.

"But while the prosecution recognizes his status as senator of the republic, he should also acknowledge that his new status will not and should not affect the proceedings in this case," the prosecutors said.

They also said the Marine brig was a high security detention facility and not a civilian government office where staff members and assistants could freely come and go.

"Being a Marine facility, it is likewise doubtful if telephone communications and working furniture can be so casually arranged for just one detention prisoner and not for other detention prisoners," the prosecutors said.

The prosecutors said Trillanes should not have been allowed to leave his detention cell even for short periods of time. He took his oath of office in Caloocan City on Friday.

JALOSJOS

IN THE KNOW

8 senators back Trillanes bail plea

EIGHT SENATORS RECENTLY EXPRESSED support for a proposal to file a bail petition that, if approved, would allow Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is being held at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig on coup d'etat and other charges, to attend Senate sessions.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago argued that Trillanes should not be given special treatment. She likened his case to that of former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who was elected twice while serving a prison term for statutory rape and acts of lasciviousness.

2 life terms

Jalosjos was sentenced in 1997 to two life terms for statutory rape and an additional eight to 15 years for each of the six counts of acts of lasciviousness committed against an 11-year-old girl in 1996.

The following year, he ran for Congress and won. The Department of Justice allowed him to take his oath of office in prison, but the Commission on Elections ruled he could not attend congressional sessions.

In 1999, more than half of the members of the House of Representatives passed a resolution asking the Supreme Court to allow Jalosjos to attend House sessions and committee hearings. But the high court said Jalosjos may not leave prison.

The convicted rapist was reelected in 2001, but was dropped from the list of House members the following year, after the Supreme Court upheld his conviction with finality.

TRILLANES

The House called for a special election to fill Jalosjos' seat. In August 2002, his sister Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon took his place as Zamboanga del Norte representative.

Malacañang commuted Jalosjos' sentence recently to 16 years, which means he could be free in three years.

Failed power grab

Trillanes, on the other hand, has been detained since 2003, after he and more than 300 young officers took over the Oakwood serviced apartments in Makati City. They denounced government and military corruption, but were accused of staging a failed power grab.

Trillanes is facing a charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman before a general court-martial, and a coup d'etat charge before the Makati Regional Trial Court. The Makati RTC earlier denied him bail.

Trillanes' lawyer Reynaldo Robles said his client would not abuse the people's trust by using his election "as a ticket, a way out of detention." He said Trillanes only wanted the court to allow him to attend Senate sessions, adding, "There will be no problem even if he has to go home to his cell every night."

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Bedol arrested finally in Davao

From page A1

eye ailment, Bedol wore a patch over his right eye and was whisked away in a police van with curtained windows to a hotel in Manila.

"He is not a criminal, he is entitled to decent treatment," Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said.

The Comelec wants Bedol to explain, among other things, his claim that the municipal certificates of canvass (CoCs), or vote tallies, which were supposed to be in his custody were stolen from him on May 29.

The CoCs represented tallies from 22 towns in Maguindanao where the administration's Team Unity (TU) senatorial candidates routed the Genuine Opposition (GO) 12-0, allegedly with the aid of gunmen who filled out ballots in some areas purportedly with the names of the TU aspirants.

GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri are fighting for the 12th and last Senate slot.

Bedol was arrested by policemen of the PNP Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in an undisclosed hospital in Davao, said Goltiao, ARMM police commander.

Goltiao said that at the time of his arrest, Bedol was "a patient in a private room."

"He was arrested while under the care of a doctor. The team leader apprised him of his rights. There was no resistance because he expected his arrest," Goltiao said in an interview.

He said Bedol was seeking treatment for an eye ailment.

Goltiao said Bedol's "blood pressure was fluctuating" but the doctor had agreed to let the poll official fly to Manila under police guard.

Whereabouts unknown

Goltiao refused to give details on Bedol's whereabouts after the poll official was taken into custody.

"We want it to be discreet to avoid the mob," he said, referring to what he said were "many people waiting to see" the poll official.

Officials gave confusing, even conflicting information on Bedol after his arrest. At one point, Election Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said Bedol was being flown to Manila "from Lanao ... from Iligan."

Earlier, Goltiao said Bedol would be flown from Awang airport in Shariff Kabunsuan to Manila.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte added to the confusion when he said that Bedol was arrested—not in Davao City, as Goltiao said—but in Cotabato.

Media circus

Calderon said police were keeping the location of Bedol a secret "to avoid a media spectacle."

As to reports that Bedol was supposedly being threatened by certain politicians, Goltiao said: "That is what he claims. We are not ignoring these claims because he stepped on a lot of toes."

Once the PNP brings Bedol to the Comelec, Calderon said his office would request the poll body to take custody of Bedol.

"*Doon na lang* (Let him stay there). We will make a request to the Comelec to keep Bedol, so he can rest."

He must explain

Garcia said the issue of Bedol's ownership of several guns would be the subject of further investigation.

Bedol told the INQUIRER last week that he owned more than 20 guns. Later, he backtracked and said he had disposed of all but two.

The PNP has clarified that individuals are only allowed to hold two guns, at most 10, if they are members of gun clubs.

Ferrer said that at his expected appearance before the Comelec today, Bedol would be asked to explain "why he should not be held in contempt."

Ferrer heads Task Force Maguindanao which is investigating allegations of widespread vote fraud in the province.

The Comelec's contempt charge and show cause order against Bedol was based on his failure to attend the provincial canvassing on May 22, failure to reset the canvassing on May 30, failure to attend a task force hearing on June 14; "unlawful assumption" of custody of municipal CoCs and other election documents, which he eventually lost; his pronouncements in the media challenging the Comelec to file charges against him; and his "regaling the media" and boasting of his personal armory.

Lesson for Bedol

Poll commissioners vowed to teach Bedol a lesson when he appears at the Comelec.

"He cannot treat the Comelec very lightly. We are very firm," Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said.

Ferrer said that if the Comelec en banc failed to finish its proceedings today, Bedol would be asked to "sign a commitment" that he would appear in succeeding hearings or "another warrant of arrest will be issued against him."

Sarmiento said Bedol would remain in Goltiao's custody.

The commissioners explained that Bedol need not be detained because the warrant of arrest was simply to force him to comply with the Comelec to appear before its en banc hearing.

Ferrer said that should Bedol be found guilty of the contempt charges, he faced a minimum of 60 days to a maximum of six months in jail.

Hands-off policy

Ferrer added that since the Comelec had no detention cell, it could ask the Manila city jail or the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame to "accommodate him."

Malacañang took a hands-off policy on the Bedol controversy.

"The court will have to take care of him," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

"Bedol is a Comelec official. If indeed he was arrested, it was by virtue of the order of Comelec through proper legal procedure. It's a Comelec matter and the Palace has no say on that." *With reports from Tarra Quismundo, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila and Joselle Badilla, Dennis Jay Santos, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pimentel fails to get Abalos to inhibit self

By Nikko Dizon

GENUINE OPPOSITION (GO) CANDIDATE Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday tried but failed to get Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to inhibit himself from the national canvassing and disclose the details of his supposed chance meeting with the parents of Team Unity candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Pimentel's lawyer filed the "urgent motion" with the Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), which was promptly denied by Abalos at the start of the canvassing proceedings.

"I will not glorify rumors. I will not inhibit myself from the national canvassing. Motion denied," Abalos said in open court.

In his three-page petition, Pimentel cited rules in the Code of Judicial Conduct which say that "a judge should so behave at all times as to promote confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary" and that "a judge shall not allow family, social, or other relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment."

"Clearly, the impartiality of Chair Abalos in matters relating to any controversy wherein the Zubiris are involved, to any degree, especially the present contest between petitioner and candidate Zubiri for the 12th and last winning senatorial slot, has been gravely put in question," Pimentel said in his motion.

"Through his full disclosure of events, we will get to know whether or not Chair Abalos behaved in such a manner as to promote public confidence in his integrity and impartiality," the GO candidate said.

Pimentel said the national canvass was adjourned on June 29 because Abalos said he was ill and needed to rest.

But Abalos was reported the next day to have been seen "leaving a function room where the Zubiri family was having a celebration" at the Shang Plaza at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City, Pimentel said.

Pimentel took note of the supposed "discrepancies" in the statements of Abalos and Zubiri after the incident was leaked to the media.

The GO candidate said Zubiri, in a radio interview a day after the incident, said that it was merely a chance meeting between the Comelec chair and his mother outside the restroom near the hotel's restaurant.

Later, Zubiri told the INQUIRER that Abalos went to his parents' table to greet them on their wedding anniversary, according to Pimentel.

The GO candidate also noted that Abalos earlier denied that he was at the Makati City hotel but eventually admitted that he was there.

Pimentel's lawyer, Leila de Lima, said the supposed chance meeting between Abalos and Zubiri's parents showed "lack of *delicadeza* and (was) unethical" on the part of the Comelec chair.

"We are in the middle of a heated controversy. You were there where there was a family party of one of the principal protagonists," De Lima told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

De Lima said that it would not be taken against Abalos if he decided not to greet Zubiri's parents on their wedding anniversary, considering that he was presiding over a national canvassing that would decide the fate of their son.

But yesterday's proceedings turned into a heated exchange between Abalos and another Pimentel lawyer, Francisco Joaquin III, when the latter insisted that the Comelec chair fully disclose his encounter with Zubiri's parents.

Joaquin showed he doubted Abalos' explanation, at one point contradicting the chair's claim that the restaurant was only four steps away from the hallway near the restroom where Abalos and Zubiri's mother accidentally met.

"No, your honor. It was 70 steps away. I counted it myself," Joaquin said.

Apparently trying to control his temper during Joaquin's interrogation, Abalos banged the gavel and declared the lawyer out of order.

Koko lead over Migz now down to 2,706

From page A1

tally while he got only 10,000 votes—a figure which he believed was "statistically improbable."

"The result of the canvassing in these areas bothers me, that's why I am asking the NBC to also spend time and give me my day in court by paying attention to these areas I want to be retabulated," Pimentel told reporters.

Carpio suggestion

Pimentel yesterday filed a petition with the Comelec asking for the recanvass of vote tallies from the seven towns on the basis of election returns as suggested by Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio during the oral arguments on Friday on his petition to stop the canvassing of the controversial Maguindanao certificates of canvass.

Pimentel also said the statement of votes (SOV) from Sultan Kudarat town in Shariff Kabunsuan, which he claimed was type-written, was unacceptable.

"If you ask all the lawyers who are familiar with the canvassing procedures at the municipal level, it is impossible to enter figures in the SOVs by typewriter," he said.

Based on GO's computation, the expected results of the retabulated CoCs from the seven towns would deduct 63,258 votes from Zubiri's 106,348 credited votes—significant enough to stretch Pimentel's lead over Zubiri, said Joaquin.

Supplemental CoC

The supplemental CoC from Barira and Kabuntalan, which accounted for 9,100 actual voters, showed that Zubiri earned 3,616 votes while Pimentel only got 1,349 votes, narrowing his edge over Zubiri by 2,026 votes.

This was later widened by 680 more votes when the NBC announced the corrections made by the Comelec's audit group on the Tamparan CoC.

Based on the audited vote tally, Zubiri earned 6,858 votes not 7,538 votes. Pimentel's score remained at 3,509.

But TU yesterday claimed that Zubiri had already dislodged Pimentel from the 12th spot, gaining a lead of 1,323 votes after the NBC corrected the results from Tamparan.

The results from the Lanao del Sur town have yet to be included in the official tally of the two candidates, thus when added, Zubiri overtakes Pimentel, Zubiri's lawyer Leslie Cordero told the INQUIRER.

"There was an annotation in the Comelec Report No. 27 that the [results] from the municipality of Tamparan has not yet been consolidated in the total tally," she told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Account for all CoCs

Pimentel said the Comelec could not yet proclaim the 12th winner in the senatorial race until it has accounted for the CoCs from Pantar, Lanao del Norte and 38 precincts in Maguindanao, which accounted for 9,000 and 7,600 votes, respectively.

"There could not be a proclamation until the NBC accounts for all these CoCs," he said.

The NBC has set the canvassing of CoCs from Bais, Negros Oriental and Bogo, Cebu on Thursday at 2 p.m.

At the Kapihan sa Maynila, Pimentel said the Comelec would face a rebuke from the Supreme Court if it railroaded the proclamation of Zubiri.

Pimentel said TU lawyer George Garcia's prediction that Zubiri would edge him out by 14,338 votes was not enough reason to proclaim him because there were still around 16,000 unaccounted votes from Pantar, Lanao del Norte, where special polls will be held, and from Maguindanao's 38 uncanvassed precincts.

Still, Pimentel said he and his lawyers would ask for a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the high tribunal to prevent the Comelec from proclaiming Zubiri.

The Supreme Court denied Pimentel's first petition for a TRO to stop the Comelec from counting the Maguindanao votes.

Pimentel said not getting the first TRO was just "a temporary setback" and they were getting ready for "Round 2."

The new petition for certiorari to be filed at the tribunal, he said, would "question the Comelec's proceedings" on June 29 because the poll body reportedly denied his group a chance to move for the exclusion of Maguindanao.

"My lawyers were silenced. When they were about to propose the motion to exclude, Comelec Commissioner (Nicodemo) Ferrer said 'sit down or we will call security to get you out.' My lawyer was threatened to be bodily carried," related Pimentel.

He added: "What is so special about Maguindanao that you can't ask questions? Is the Maguindanao [CoC] a sacred document that you can not raise questions?"

Flatten belly, enlarge breasts without surgery

From page A1

on Sunday, the fantasy may soon become reality.

Researchers have figured out how to remove fat from one part of the body and make it grow in another part—at least in mice. They say their findings could benefit health as well as beauty.

Their findings, which also shed light on how and why stressed-out people so often gain weight, are based on a naturally produced chemical messenger or neurotransmitter called neuropeptide Y (NPY) that has long been linked with appetite, weight gain and obesity.

NPY attaches to a neuropeptide Y2 receptor (Y2R), a molecular doorway in fat cells. The receptor activates fat cells and some of cells in the blood vessels found in fat tissue.

"We don't think this is something that would be used for gross obesity, but for reshaping the body for use with pockets of fat ... that would be all very good," said Dr. Zofia Zukowska, a professor of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington who led the study.

Manipulating NPY offers a new tool for plastic surgeons. "You could take the fat from your buttocks and put it in your breasts and cheeks," Zukowska said.

Cosmetic revolution

The study, published online in Nature Medicine, could "revolutionize human cosmetic and reconstructive surgery and treatment of diseases associated with human obesity," according to a statement issued by Georgetown University Medical Center.

In the study, American, Australian and Slovak researchers describe a mechanism they found by which stress activates weight gain in mice. By manipulating this pathway, they said they were in fact able to selectively add fat to their test subjects.

"We couldn't believe such fat remodeling was possible, but the numerous different experiments conducted over four years demonstrated that it is, at least in mice," Zukowska said in the statement.

"We are hopeful that these findings might eventually lead to control of metabolic syndrome ... Decreasing fat in the abdomen of the mice we studied reduced the fat in their liver and skeletal muscles, and also helped control insulin resistance, glucose intolerance, blood pressure and inflammation," she added.

Tests on mice

For the research, Zukowska's team first tried to stress mice in a way that would duplicate human life.

The researchers made the mice stand in cold puddles—akin to riding a bus with wet feet in the winter. They also put the mice with aggressive mice that might act similarly to an angry human boss.

Half of the stressed mice got a normal mouse diet and half got a high-fat, high-sugar diet. "What I like to call the American diet," Zukowska said.

The stressed mice given a normal diet lost weight. Those on the "American" diet gained weight, more weight than would be expected given how much they ate. And their bodies were producing extra NPY.

According to Zukowska, NPY helps the body lay down fat, rich in blood vessels. "It is the bad kind of obesity because it leads to diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and strokes—what we call metabolic syndrome," she said.

When the researchers injected a drug that blocks Y2R, the mice lost 40 percent of their belly fat. Not only that, signs of diabetes and other ill effects disappeared. "It had a profound effect on overall metabolism," Zukowska said.

Exact pathway

"We have known for over a decade that there is a connection between chronic stress and obesity," said Herbert Herzog, a professor at Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney, which participated in the study.

"Now we have identified the exact pathway, or chain of molecular events, that links chronic stress with obesity," Herzog said.

Zukowska's team also made NPY into a slow-release pellet. When they placed this pellet under the skin of thin rhesus monkeys, they grew pockets of fat around the pellets. Such treatments may help replace the fat lost in people's faces as they age.

To achieve this effect, the researchers used a drug made by Boehringer Ingelheim which has a license for its use in this way. The drug, however, has not yet been tested in humans. Zukowska said her team may look for other drugs that have the same effect.

Zukowska noted that some clinics claim to already offer such treatments, but said these clinics used bile acids that killed tissue and may cause infection. "There isn't anything on the market right now that could be used to melt the fat that is scientifically proven," she said.

Miracle molecule

With more than 300 million people worldwide suffering from obesity and 800 million more considered overweight, more and more scientists are joining the search for that miracle molecule that will slim us all down.

While most pharmaceutical solutions have so far focused "with moderate success" on appetite suppressants, Herzog said that "our hope is that in the near future pharmaceutical companies, using the results of our research, will develop antagonists against the Y2 receptor that will bring about a reduction in fat cells." Georgetown professor Stephen Baker, one of the study's authors, pointed out that the ability to add fat selectively would be useful for cosmetic restructuring, like facial reconstruction, breast, buttock and lip enhancements.

"This is the first well-described mechanism found that can effectively eliminate fat without using surgery," he said, adding that "a safe, effective, nonsurgical means to eliminate undesirable body fat would be of great benefit to our patients." *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

DFA working to stave off OFWs' execution

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs is trying to save three overseas Filipino workers—two of them women—from execution in Saudi Arabia after their convictions became final and executory.

In a press conference, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos said the three, whom he refused to identify, were sentenced to death by the Grand Shariah Court (Supreme Court) of Saudi Arabia. Two of the cases involving the women are in Riyadh while the third is in Jeddah.

Conejos said all three cases involved murder, compounded by either rape or robbery.

He said the execution in one case in Riyadh had been suspended for 10 years because the daughter of the victim was only 5 years old when her mother was killed by the OFW.

Conejos said that under Saudi law, the daughter must be 15 before she could decide whether or not to pardon the accused.

Under Shariah law, the crime has both public and private aspects. The state could pardon the accused but he or she must also secure forgiveness from the victim's family by offering blood money which must be accepted for the sentence to be overturned.

Conejos said there were 35 other potential death row cases involving OFWs around the world. Most of the cases are in the trial stage while four are in the "advanced stage" or nearing conviction.

"Not all of them are on death row. These are cases in different stages but in the event of conviction, the maximum penalty is death. This is a special category we monitor closely," he said.

Of the 35 death penalty cases, 12 are drug-related in Malaysia and the rest are murder cases against OFWs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"These involve complex offenses and the others are under investigation. Even if there is no case filed yet we come in," Conejos said.

At the same briefing, Conejos said the Saudi government had not yet acted on the Philippine government's note verbale of June 15 requesting the repatriation of the body of Rey Cortez, who was beheaded in Riyadh on June 13 for killing a Pakistani taxi driver who tried to rape him.

The DFA earlier summoned Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Wali to receive the note verbale, which also requested that Cortez's family be allowed to visit his unmarked grave in Riyadh.

Conejos admitted the chances of the request being granted were nil as similar requests in the past for the repatriation of executed OFWs' remains were ignored.

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Caloocan tax exec facing graft charges

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY ORDERED the filing of criminal charges against a Caloocan City revenue officer for allegedly demanding P2 million from a businessman in exchange for reducing his tax arrears.

Teophanie Christy Sy, then officer in charge of Caloocan's Real Property Tax Division, was arrested in August 2005 in a Quezon City restaurant where the alleged payoff was to take place, case records showed.

Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said Sy would be charged with bribery and violation of the antigraft law, based on the preliminary investigation conducted by the Department of Justice.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by George Goquinqco, president of Arayaland Manufacturing Corp., who had alerted the National Bureau of Investigation to a "payment scheme" Sy was proposing.

Prior to the arrest, Goquingco's lawyer and Sy met several times at the latter's office regarding AMC's tax liability amounting to P12.9 million which had accrued since 1995.

The figure went up to P15 million after Sy informed the businessman that his previous firm, Arcadia Manufacturing (Arayaland's former name), also had a property tax delinquency.

"Respondent (Sy) allegedly offered a payment scheme in which Goquingco would pay P4 million in cash with no receipt and P7.7 million in seven quarterly installments of P1.1 million to be issued official receipts (ORs)," the Ombudsman said.

Goquingco then asked Sy to lower the amount not covered by the ORs.

She agreed by offering "an alternative payment scheme in which Goquingco would pay P2 million in cash without a receipt with the remaining P13 million to be paid in full covered by an OR."

Sy denied the accusation and said it was Goquingco who tried to bribe her. *Volt Conteras*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 3, 2007
Thomas, Apostle

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: John 20:24-29

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

Commentary

We are intimate and close to God, brought so near by Jesus and those who came after him, prophets, apostles, other disciples. And we are built up into one household of God rising on the foundations they first laid. We are the dwelling place for God in the Spirit—do we keep that in mind? This is not a description of us individually but as a people, a church, the whole people of God. Can anyone tell?

Thomas, like the other apostles, betrayed Jesus. He is absent (some think because as a twin he was hiding under that alter—identity) when the Risen Lord comes and gifts them all with peace, with the power of the Spirit and sends them into the world to forgive and hold bound those that need it. And he refuses to believe any of them, articulating his own crude criteria for belief. And so he stifles the Spirit and stops the Good News from getting into the world. Jesus comes after him, holding him bound to his words and blessing all those who will follow (like us) who will believe the words of others who tell us of resurrection life.

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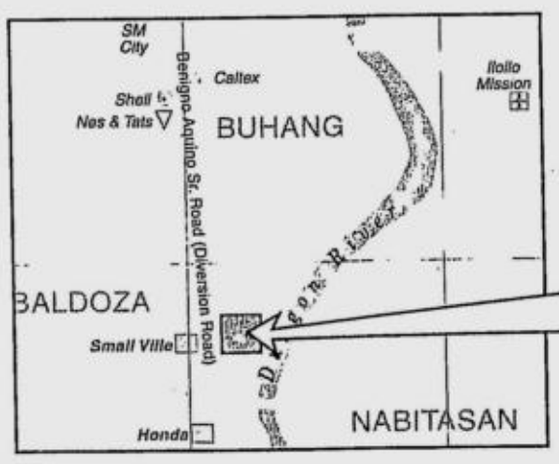

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Italy sends top woman envoy to RP

From page A1

in 1973, and chaired it until her election.

From 1987 to 1989, she was a member of the European Parliament. She became minister for Italians living abroad and immigration in the government of then Italian President Giulio Andreotti.

"We're confident that he's still alive," Esperon told The Associated Press.

"We have indications of life, but we do not want to discuss the details because it could give away his location," he told reporters separately. "And by giving away the location, it could also give away the identities of the people working on it."

Moro gunmen

Bossi, 57, of Milan was snatched in Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10 while on his way to celebrate Mass.

Authorities initially blamed a commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large rebel group fighting for self-rule in Mindanao. The MILF denied any role in the abduction and deployed forces to help government troops search for Bossi along the mountainous boundary of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

Last week, the abductors offered to negotiate for Bossi's freedom, according to a purported intermediary in Mindanao.

Marine Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, who is helping monitor search efforts, said troops also mounted a search in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Security officials said they suspected Moro gunmen not linked to the MILF may be behind the abduction.

Hundreds of Army troops, backed by military aircraft and sniffer dogs, have been combing thick mountain forests for weeks. A US spy plane was deployed shortly after the abduction to scour the seas off Zamboanga Sibugay.

Contact

Esperon said additional troops were deployed in one region but declined to specify the area "so that the captors would not transfer (Bossi) to another place."

Bossi's fellow Italian priests in the southern Philippines from the Rome-based Pontifical Institute

BONIVER

BOSSI

for Foreign Missions have said they have not been contacted by the abductors.

The Italian foreign ministry said it has been in contact with the institute as well as the papal envoy's office in the Philippines. It said Rome was hanging up Bossi's photograph in City Hall Square "to give witness to the attention and the commitment" of those working for his release.

In Zamboanga City, the spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command said the implementation of the antiterror law, or Human Security Act, could hasten government efforts to locate Bossi if his captivity would go beyond July 15.

Apprehension

Maj. Eugene Batara said the law might fast-track search and rescue operations "because people close to the kidnappers will be obliged to provide us information and individuals with information may be required to speak and that would easily locate the kidnapped priest."

Senior Supt. Francisco Cristobal, police chief of Zamboanga Sibugay, agreed. "The Human Security Act may help in our search," he said.

But some residents of Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay expressed apprehension over intensified military operations in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Payao Mayor Joefer Mendoza said several people had been invited by the military to shed light on the kidnapping. "Some were already released while others, as what I know, are still in the military custody," he said.

Mendoza said four teachers of the Barangay Silal Elementary School abandoned their posts after Bossi's abduction because "they were afraid that soon they will also be kidnapped."

But he said the teachers had already returned "when we gave assurance of their protection and security."

Some residents are also concerned about the military operations, the mayor said.

"They are afraid that military and police might launch offensives in (the village of) Silal. So as part of our assurance, we conducted medical [and] dental [services] and mass feeding, including dialogue with the villagers of Silal to assure them that no military action will take place in the village," Mendoza explained.

MILF view

The MILF also felt uneasy with the antiterror law.

MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal told the INQUIRER that more people would be affected once the law was fully enforced on July 15.

"Before, if the criminal is caught in the act, he is still presumed innocent. With this new law on antiterror, anyone, even mere suspects and innocent people, is already presumed guilty and could easily be arrested," Iqbal said.

Kidnapping is already classified as a terror act and everyone suspected in the kidnapping of the Italian priest may have to face the law, he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, AP and AFP*

Gov't to treat terrorists just like criminals

From page A1

rorism," Defensor said terrorism was a "tactical phenomenon that changes according to geographic and cultural factors and cannot be strictly defined because it is intangible."

But it is important to differentiate terrorism from simple crime, Defensor, who is special envoy for counterterrorism, told his audience at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

"Terrorists are different from criminals because of their motivation and loyalty to a cause," said Defensor, who used to head the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Counter-Terrorism Task Force (Apec-CTTF).

"Criminals are untrained, undisciplined and oriented to escape. Terrorists are the opposite; they are willing to die in their mission, whether it is with a roadside bomb or a suicide attack," he said.

THE MILITANT women's group, Gabriela, stages a protest in Quezon City to denounce the impending implementation of the Human Security Act and the monitoring of cell phone users which they say violates basic civil liberties and democratic rights. JOAN BONDOC

Difference irrelevant

But the line separating the criminal and the terrorist, from the perspective of the military, could just as well be irrelevant. For Defensor, the best approach in handling terrorists is to think of them as criminals.

In a copy of his speech, which was distributed to the delegates, the section describing terrorists and criminals appeared under the heading "A Little Secret."

The dilemma that faces countries grappling with terrorist threats is "how much force to use and how to protect the citizenry as required by domestic and international law," Defensor said.

"Immediate policies should focus on discovering and monitoring potential terrorists and going after extremists," he said.

Defensor said long-term policies should revolve around an "antiterrorist culture [in which] citizens should know how to respond to terrorism and be not afraid of it."

Antiterror culture

To this end, he proposed the creation of the "Asean Counter-Terrorism Task Force," a body that will increase interregional cooperation in the fight against terrorists.

The symposium was part of the 4th Asean Air Chiefs Conference, an annual affair aimed at strengthening partnerships among the region's air forces for improving each country's defenses.

What was supposed to be highlight of the conference was the signing of a declaration stating the delegates' commitment to continue the fight against global terrorism.

But the signing did not push through after some of the delegates failed to get prior approval from their military superiors to seal the pact, officials said.

Education campaign

To prepare for the implementation of the antiterror law, the military, aware that mistakes could prove costly when handling terror suspects, will launch an information drive among its men .

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, military information chief, said Sunday the military would conduct an information drive among officers and soldiers on the provisions of the Human Security Act.

The information drive will be launched as soon as the government comes out with implementing rules and regulations of RA No. 372, according to Bacarro.

Militant groups in Southern Tagalog are also conducting an education campaign, not on the merits of the law but on its flaws.

Vague definition

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) is organizing forums in Southern Tagalog communities and schools where PowerPoint presentations and film documentaries highlight provisions of the HSA that are "vague and prone to abuse."

The group has also produced an English primer on the HSA, which has been translated to Filipino.

The law has a "broad and vague definition" of terrorism, said Renato Reyes, Bayan secretary general.

Under the law, the crime of terrorism includes piracy in general or mutiny in high seas; rebellion or insurrection; coup d'etat, including acts committed by private persons; murder; kidnapping and serious illegal detention, and, crimes involving destruction such as arson.

"Who will say that a crime created fear among the populace? With this definition, the law can easily be abused by officials and used against legal organizations critical of the Arroyo administration," Reyes said Saturday in Calamba City at a forum attended by members of different sectors.

Karapatan, Kalipunan ng Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Timog Katagalugan and League of Filipino Students were also present.

Reyes said militant groups would use all available legal means to stop the implementation of the law.

Petition

Bayan, along with legislators and members of people's and human rights organizations, is preparing to file a petition with the Supreme Court to repeal the law.

"The new law should not create an extraordinary fear among us, activists. We should closely watch how the law would be implemented and the abuses the government would be committing against innocent civilians," Reyes said.

Bacarro said the information drive was needed because the military would be among law enforcers involved in the fight against terrorism, specifically in the arrest and detention of suspected terrorists.

"(The information drive will be given to) ensure that they themselves (military personnel) wouldn't be violating the provisions in the law," he said.

"The soldiers should be informed on what they can do or what they can't do," Bacarro said.

Damages of P500,000 a day

The law has provisions and penalties to ensure that law enforcers will abuse their authority while conducting surveillance, getting access to bank accounts and detaining suspects.

One of the provisions, which defense officials early this year said should be amended, was on the damages to be paid by the government should a suspected terrorist be acquitted of the crime of terrorism.

Section 50 provides that acquitted suspects be entitled to damages amounting to P500,000 "for every day that he or she has been detained or deprived of liberty or arrested without a warrant as a result of such an accusation." *With a report from Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gonzales says leftist propaganda successful

From page A1

A European Union team recently completed its mission in the country and its head, Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, said the political killings remained a serious problem hurting the Philippine image abroad and the government should win the people's trust if it wanted to succeed.

"I would like to assure the men and women in uniform that we will not allow the enemies of the State to deceive our people," Gonzales said, adding the government would "stand by what we think is best for our country."

"And most of all I will request that, quietly, let's continue to do our job," he said.

End to propaganda war

Lauding the defense and military establishments for performing their jobs "quietly," he said that "it seems to me we cannot be so quiet these days."

Talking to reporters, Gonzales said what he meant was "let's not engage in propaganda anymore. Let's just do our work well."

Gonzales said that the country's defenders should speak out and "show what we are doing."

Of concerns by leftist groups about his holding the defense post, he said that the first thing a communist does, on seeing an enemy, "is to ruin the reputation of that man."

"What they are trying to do I think is to establish the ground so that I will be assassinated, they have been attempting my assassination," he said.

On accusations that he was the architect of political killings, he said the Left was just trying to "demonize" him.

Leopoldo Ancheta's wife

Gonzales said there was no need for the military to counter the propaganda being waged by the Left "because you do not win in that kind of engagement."

Asked how he could address the issue of political killings, Gonzales said he would help

GONZALES

push investigations through.

"And I'm making an appeal, *itong buhay huwag nating biruin* (let us not play with lives) ... Let us not use as a propaganda achievement of any group. Let us look into the bottom of this and then look at the perpetrators," he said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. shared Gonzales' sentiments on how soldiers were "putting their lives on the lines" and yet were being accused of killing activists.

"The accusations have just been too excessive," Esperon told reporters.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday advised the wife of Leopoldo Ancheta, whose disappearance has been blamed on the military, to respect the Court of Appeal's decision or file an appeal using stronger evidence.

Ermita was reacting to the court's ruling dismissing a habeas corpus petition filed by Ancheta's wife seeking to compel the military to produce Ancheta before the court.

Appeal of Fides Ladlad

Ermita said: "Those who are detractors of government ... should bring this up properly in the appropriate court with the proper evidence and witnesses to prove their point in the case."

The court dismissed the appeal of Ancheta's wife for lack of evidence.

In a separate move yesterday, the wife of Bayan Muna leader Vicente Ladlad asked Chief Justice Reynato Puno to tackle the problem of "manufactured" and politically motivated criminal cases being filed by the government against activists, at a multisector summit Puno had proposed to curb political killings and forced disappearances.

In a letter, Fides Lim Ladlad said the filing of the baseless charges was part of the campaign to obliterate leftists.

Fabricated cases increasing

Her husband Vicente was among those charged, together with Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, with rebellion and multiple murder. The latter case stemmed from the discovery of mass graves of supposed leftists in Leyte.

"I hope that the summit that you plan can also tackle this other dimension of human rights violation which relies—and thrives—on the manipulation of the criminal justice system," Fides said.

"Too long has the practice been going on of lumping together the names of leftist activists and accusing them of common crimes in order to criminalize them. The lengthy charge sheet is most often than not based on conjured testimonies extracted under duress or that employ disreputable witnesses to serve ill-disguised political motives," she added.

Fides said many activists were facing fabricated criminal cases.

"Manufactured cases against lesser known activists are also rising in the provinces. Isn't the slapping of false charges against them but part of the general campaign to suppress and physically annihilate the Left...? If you cannot kill them, jail them, and throw away the key," she said.

Fides also said her inclusion in the murder charge for the Leyte graves showed how absurd the case was, pointing out that her life as a writer was an open book, she was not a member of the Communist Party and had never even set foot in Leyte. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Death threats don't faze new governor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE CROWD OF supporters parted like the Red Sea as former Catholic priest Ed Panlilio stepped out of his campaign headquarters downtown here. The building had just received a phoned-in bomb threat.

Marked for assassination by gambling lords as well as political enemies, the soft-spoken 53-year-old has so far proved to be an elusive target for hired killers.

The first priest ever to be elected governor in the country, he has changed the political landscape of this predominantly Catholic nation of 86 million whose Constitution clearly calls for the separation of Church and state.

Panlilio beat all the odds in May when he was elected governor of Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province and the illegal gambling capital of the Philippines.

Thousands of impoverished people had come to listen to his speeches in his grueling grassroots campaign while the local media portrayed him as a crusading David challenging the two Goliaths of local politics—Gov. Mark Lapid and Mayor Lilia Pineda—backed by Ms Arroyo's vast political machinery.

While his victory may have alienated him from his superiors in the Church who stripped him of his priestly duties, analysts say it underscored the public's frustration with so-called traditional politicians who had failed to uplift the lives of their constituents.

Panlilio is embarking on a Herculean crusade to clean up the bloated and corrupt provincial bureaucracy and introduce transparency in Pampanga.

He has begun investigating anomalous government contracts and looking at ways to cut the provincial government's overstaffed work force, but perhaps more importantly, he has declared war on the popular illegal numbers game "jueteng."

Major source of revenue

Underground multimillion-peso jueteng operations have for years been the major source of revenue for corrupt politicians.

The practice had become so widespread that it partly caused the downfall of President Joseph Estrada in 2001. Among other things, Estrada was accused of receiving protection money from jueteng lords.

Panlilio is under no illusion about the job ahead of him and he knows he may not totally eradicate jueteng. "But we have to start somewhere," he says.

"Defeating the jueteng lords remains crucial if we are to introduce good governance in a province dominated by Mafia-like patronage politics," he says.

Despite the death threats Panlilio refuses to wear a bullet-proof vest, saying: "They are too heavy and too cumbersome."

Rubbing a simple crucifix necklace between his fingers, he says: "This is all the protection I need."

Even so, everywhere he goes there are armed bodyguards provided by the provincial police—just in case.

"I am not afraid.

FATHER Ed addresses journalists in San Fernando, after receiving the first of several bomb threats recently. AFP

When I ran for governor, I had already given myself up and was prepared for the consequences of my action," Panlilio told Agence France-Presse.

"Those who are threatening us are cowards who don't know how to stand on their own two feet. We cannot be cowed," he said.

The threats against him are real—already three local officials who played key roles in his campaign have been attacked by unidentified gunmen.

Warning to stop crusade

One of them, Mario Nulud, was killed in his garden in what was seen by Panlilio's supporters as a warning to the priest to stop his crusade.

The attacks have forced Panlilio to limit public appearances until after his July 1 inauguration. Nevertheless, the death threats continue, including one sent via text message threatening to bomb his headquarters.

Panlilio would not publicly say who he suspects are behind the attacks but relatives of those who have been targeted believe the hired guns work for one of his losing rivals who is the spouse of Pampanga's alleged jueteng kingpin.

"We are in constant communication with police about these threats. We are taking adequate measures for our safety," Panlilio said.

"We will address them all in the proper time," he said, when asked if he would go all the way against the jueteng barons.

He said he would first introduce alternative livelihoods to those directly and indirectly employed by jueteng. Priests would also be urged to use the pulpit to shame those known to play the game.

The plan, apparently, is to bleed dry the betting pool in hopes of killing off the gambling network.

"The jueteng lords will not have power if the public supports the antigambling drive," Panlilio said, while acknowledging that public education is needed as gambling is generally accepted in most Asian countries.

Panlilio said the threats would not hinder his movements, or stop him from fulfilling his three-year mandate.

Analysts say Panlilio will have a hard time overhauling Pampanga politics.

First, he does not have the numbers in the provincial council and, second, he appears to have lost the support of the Church which frowned on his decision to run.

"Panlilio's victory signifies the recovery of Kapampangan self-esteem from the lowest levels to which it had sunk under the successive leadership of corrupt politicians," said sociologist and political analyst Randy David, an INQUIRER columnist.

'Bright ray of hope'

David said Panlilio's victory was a "bright ray of hope in an otherwise relentlessly gloomy political sky."

He said there was reason to hope that Panlilio, who does not have a political party, would be able to push reforms, although he may also be overwhelmed by the task.

"Reluctant individuals, drawn into politics by extraordinary circumstances, may often choose to stand above the cesspool of politics, hoping to preserve purity," David said.

"They usually end up being overwhelmed by politics, unable to grasp its imperatives or to live with the imperfect choices it represents.

"Potent and inspiring as political symbols, they, however, fail to establish enduring legacies," he said.

Mario Galang, a local governance expert who hails from Pampanga, noted the powerful Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines was not too happy with Panlilio's victory because he was not trained for a political post.

"He's on his own as far as the Church is concerned," said Galang, who writes policy reports for the Action for Economic Reforms, a local think tank.

Panlilio's crusade against jueteng and corruption "bears the figurative marks of Thermopylae," where outnumbered Spartan troops held off a horde of Persian soldiers with courage, although they eventually failed.

Clear moral call

"The aim is less to win than to sound a moral call so clear and so convincing for legions to follow," Galang said.

Panlilio said he and a group of advisers are taking crash courses in good governance at a university to help them better prepare for their roles.

He shrugged off the negative comments, saying that embarrassed losing candidates want to see him fail.

Panlilio is no stranger to social activism. Over the years, he has built a solid track record in community service by working alongside nongovernment organizations.

He has received various awards from civic groups for his work championing microenterprises among the poor, as well as protection for children with disabilities.

He says he does not crave power and would gladly return to his ministry once he has fulfilled his official duties.

"I am doing this not because of a personal ambition or a craving for power. I have always loved my priestly ministry and I always found fulfillment in it," he said. *AFP*

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SEC WARNING

BEWARE OF INTERNET-BASED PONZI INVESTMENT SCHEMES

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has received reports that the following entities are allegedly engaged in internet-based ponzi investment schemes: **FRANCSWISS, SWISS CASH, UNIVERSAL FOREX SYSTEM, GLOBAL AMERICA,** and **PRIVATE FOREX TRADE, INC.** These entities are NOT REGISTERED with the Commission, and have no permit or authority to solicit investments from the public. Private Forex Trade, Inc. has in fact been found to be misleading the public by showing a fake SEC Certificate of Registration on its website.

The following are some of the features of an internet-based ponzi investment scheme:

- No SEC registration
- Investment in foreign currency, preferably in US Dollars
- Offers or guarantees a huge profit in a very short period
- Utilizes a binary network (i.e. upline and downline) to earn commissions
- No paper trail (i.e. contracts, receipts)
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- Orientation seminars are conducted informally

This investment scheme ordinarily collapses as fast as they are created while leaving its investors behind and unable to recoup their investments.

The public is therefore urged to report any offer of investment made by persons who represent the above-mentioned entities or other entities using similar modus operandi to the undersigned in order that the appropriate enforcement action can be taken:

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(632) 727-3367
ced@sec.gov.ph

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High achievement

EDITORIAL

TONY MELOTO, THE GUIDING SPIRIT OF GAWAD Kalinga, is a good storyteller. Last Wednesday he told some stories at the reception given by the Philippine Daily Inquirer to honor him as the newspaper's Filipino of the Year 2006. They were inspiring stories, moving stories—so inspiring and so moving that they brought some of his listeners close to tears.

Those who think that our nation is hopeless and will forever remain stuck in the mire of poverty, helplessness and despair should listen to him. Or better yet, join him in his endeavor to correct some of the social and economic inequities in our nation.

Meloto told the story of Filipinos abroad who are coming back to help or are contributing funds to help build Gawad Kalinga villages in the Philippines. He told stories about some "crazy people," like two former top business executives who left high-paying jobs to take up key positions in Gawad Kalinga. He told the story of a "crazy New Zealander" who quit a high-paying marketing and IT job to help out in GK.

He recounted the story of his son-in-law, the millionaire Dylan Wilk, who left a life of ease and comfort in Great Britain to help raise funds for the construction of houses for the poor. He told the story of his own children who quit good jobs in big corporations to help their father with his project.

At the reception, Meloto's own story was recounted. A marketing executive, he experienced his "epiphany " in 1985 when he joined the Couples for Christ. It was an encounter that changed his vision and priorities. He brought the Couples for Christ to Negros Occidental and helped put up the CFC Family Ministries in 1993. Two years later he launched an anti-poverty program in Bagong Silang, Cavite, which evolved into what is now known as Gawad Kalinga, which means "to give care."

The mission of the movement is to empower communities and improve the living conditions of slum dwellers. With the help of Couples for Christ, Meloto transformed Bagong Silang into the first Gawad Kalinga Village and built decent houses for the community.

One of the conditions for Gawad Kalinga's projects is that while beneficiaries don't have to pay for their new homes, they must help the volunteers who build them. This concept prevents beneficiaries from developing an attitude of mendicancy and dependence. It illustrates the saying that "God helps those who help themselves," and it helps in the formation of strong, self-reliant families.

Gawad Kalinga draws sponsors from expatriate Filipinos, civic organizations, schools, government agencies and big corporations. Aside from building houses, it also takes care of the health, educational and livelihood needs of the villages.

Today there are 1,400 Gawad Kalinga villages and the movement has set a goal of building 700,000 houses in 7,000 communities in 7 years, with 2010 as the target date for delivery. Landowners, businessmen, big corporations are donating land. Gawad Kalinga has an army of 200,000 volunteers, a force that is much bigger than the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which is 130,000 strong.

Many Filipinos have been complaining about the economic and social situation in their country. They say that there seems to be no hope for their nation, that it will not be able to rise from the despond of poverty and despair.

But they should take heart from the words of a new American philanthropist, Microsoft's Bill Gates, whose foundation has spent $8 billion in 12 years for world health programs and US education. In a recent speech at Harvard, Gates said: "[H]umanity's greatest advances are not in its discoveries—but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity. Whether through democracy, strong public education, quality health care, or broad economic opportunity—reducing inequity is the highest human achievement."

Meloto has the same idea. With his Gawad Kalinga, he is trying to reduce social and economic inequity in many areas in our country. And while helping the poor rise from their poverty, he is moving them from charity to genuine Christian stewardship. He is one Filipino who is not taking the usual recourse of cursing the darkness. He has lighted a candle that will help banish the darkness.

The Gawad Kalinga concept, replicated thousands of times all over the country, may yet be one answer to the problem of poverty that has kept millions of people locked in its pitiless vise.

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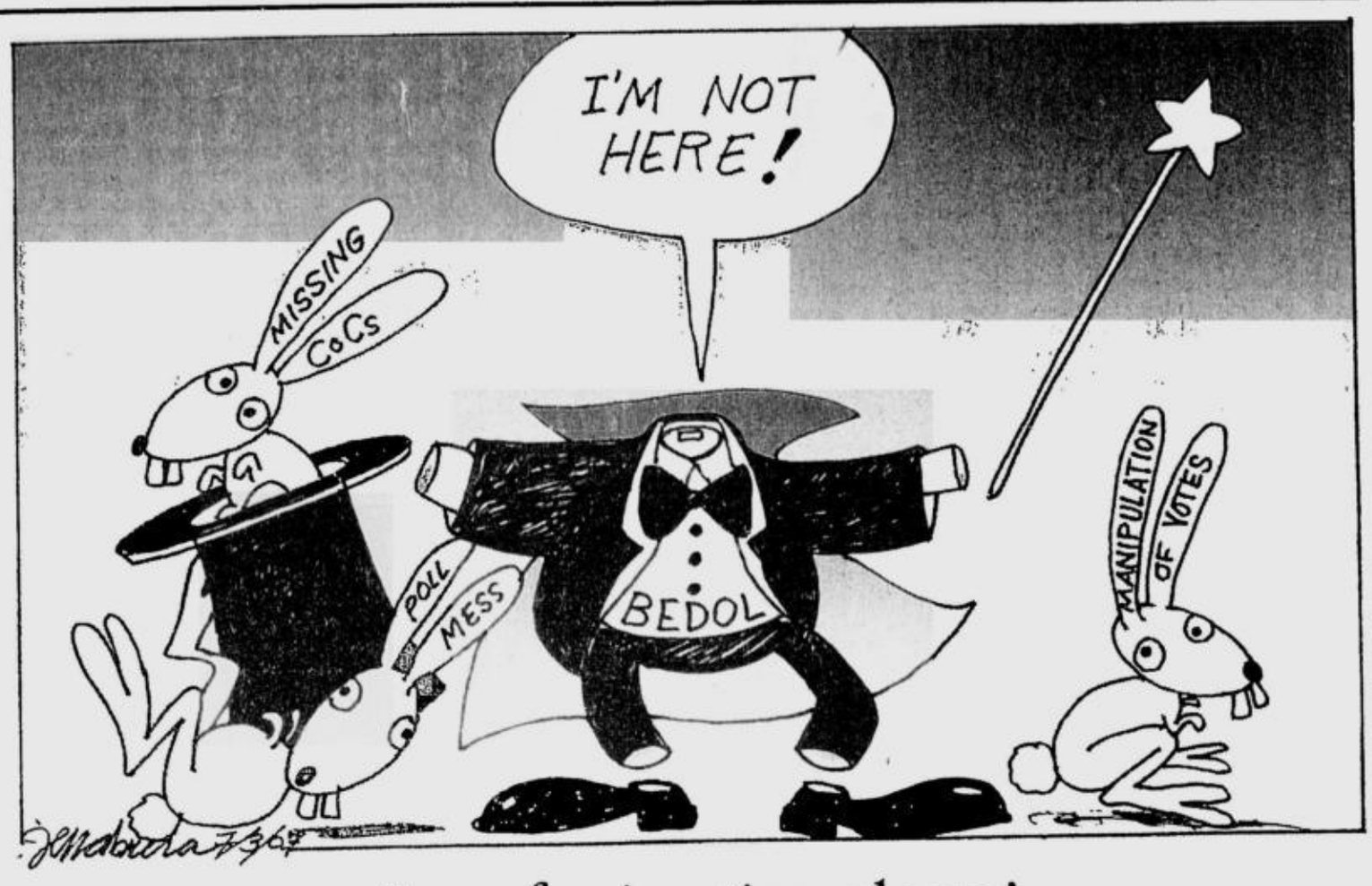

'Age of migration alarm'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WHILE COASTING ON TOURIST VISAS, some seek foreigners to marry, preferably of similar national ancestry, so they can stay for good. Migrant money buoys the economy back home. Migrant departures split parents from children. And lofty talk of opportunity abroad mixes with accounts of false travel documents and sham marriages."

Over eight million Filipinos today work in 162 countries. A number seek to marry foreign citizens, of Filipino ancestry, to get residence. Overseas workers' remittances topped $12 billion last year. And family abandonment cases are rising. So, the paragraph above is about the Philippines, right?

Wrong. This is an excerpt from a New York Times report on migration ripping West Africa's Cape Verde. It also offers a glimpse of 200 million migrants worldwide recasting societies in a planet "where borders are closing." An archipelago, like the Philippines, Cape Verde is Africa's "Galapagos of migration," writes Jason De Parle. Isolas de Galapagos (Islands of the Tortoises) are desolate Pacific islands, 600 miles west of Ecuador. British buccaneers in the 17th century used them as a base. But their plant and animal life enabled the naturalist Charles Darwin, in 1835, to shatter the old belief that "species remain immutable." Galapagos showed that different species, over time, adapt to their environment.

Is the Philippines the "Galapagos of migration" in Asia? New York Times Magazine titled De Parle's earlier cover story on Filipino OFWs: "A Good Provider Is One Who Leaves." It tracked three generations of a Pasay City swimming pool cleaner's family who became OFWs. "In no other sizeable country do remittances loom as large as 14 percent of national GDP... But no country ever broke free from penury just by remittances."

Asians accounted for $53 billion of the $127 billion that migrants sent home in 2004. If one tacks on funds sent through "informal channels," the total now probably exceeds $300 billion. That's almost triple the world's foreign aid budgets combined.

On average, the monthly OFW packet is $300, the Asian Development Bank found. The money repairs run-down houses, buys subdivision plots, pays for medicine and tuition, etc. It also snaps up cell phones, fancy clothes and, in some instances, mistresses, karaokes and booze. *Sapagkat kami ay tao lamang.*

Nearly half of migrants from poor nations trudge to other poor nations, De Parle observes. Chinese shopkeepers chase markets on Cape Verde. As Zimbabwe crumbles from the Marcos-style governance of Robert Mugabe, it drives thousands next door.

For both "sending" and "receiving" nations, migration is front-burner issue. Immigration law reforms to cover 12 million illegals in the United States collapsed. Catholic priests from Poland flood into Ireland. British Broadcasting Corp. reports that last year, 3,200 out of 8,000 UK nurses flew to Australia, due to National Health Service budget cuts. Over 165,000 Malaysians cross the Johore bridge daily to jobs in Singapore. This is the "Age of Migration," an academic says.

It's also "the age of migration alarm," De Parle notes. Even before Sept. 11, hurdles were growing, like the "3-S Strategy," the ADB noted. Visas go only for "skilled workers for short-term employment in specific sectors." Language skills are tested and visa processing is longer, costlier.

"European ships patrol African coasts to intercept human smugglers and new fences are planned along the Rio Grande between the US and Mexico," he notes. "Countries that want migrant muscle and brains also want more border control ... and fear bonfires of religious and cultural conflict."

More migrants today are women. Marlou Schrover of Leiden University notes that in migration history, men, as well as the poor, the desperate and the exceptional attracted more attention than other migrants. And the "death of distance" due to the jet, Internet, telephone, etc. made cultural differences smaller.

The desire to experience migration's economic rewards is "imploding." That stokes the frustration of people desperate to migrate but who cannot. "What characterizes the world today is also the feeling of involuntary immobility," says Dr. R. Carling of Oslo's International Peace Research Institute.

Migration supplies rich economies with brawn and brains of migrants. Remittances feed and shelter the poor, underscoring family devotion. But the constant emphasis on departures also strains family bonds and erodes marriages. It increases inequalities between migrants and those who can't leave.

A country that can't hold its best and brightest compromises its future. Such countries find they must reinvent themselves as nations beyond borders. Migration drains the Philippines of essential skills, the ADB cautions. And spoon-feeding individuals or governments puts off tough reforms.

"Relying on remittances—and the prospect of going abroad one day—can alienate," De Parle notes. That alienation finds its expression in song. In Cape Verde, the song "Sodade" conveys "longing, longing, longing for my island." And De Parle remembers Filipino OFWs in Dubai belting out, "It's So Painful, Big Brother Eddie," a 1980s Tagalog song "that immortalizes every Filipino migrant's fears." Since we never got our act, at home, together.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Pardon me

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EDUARDO ERMITA SAYS HIS BOSS PLANS TO give amnesty to all enemies of the state. The idea, originally conceived by the mind of Yoda—or his look-alike, not his think-alike, Jose de Venecia—has become full-blown in the mind of GMA. (I am using "mind" liberally.) It is part of the peace process that GMA is initiating in line with her desire to leave a legacy to the nation, says Ermita. It hews to the amnesty proclamations of Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos. "In due time, the amnesty proclamation will be considered by the President."

That is all very well, except for one thing. Cory and Ramos were the presidents of the Republic of the Philippines; Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not.

The question is not: Should GMA pardon Antonio Trillanes and Satur Ocampo's friends in the hills? The question is: Should Juan de la Cruz pardon Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo?

Largeness of spirit is not the concept that strikes you when Ermita talks about pardoning the enemies of the state on behalf of GMA. Presumption is. The image I get is that of Marcos doing exactly the same thing. The problem there is not just the word "enemies," it is the word "state." In Marcos' time, the definition of the "enemies of the state" was the "enemies of Marcos," the unholy equation being that Marcos was the state. GMA seems to believe that, too. It is a tyrant's favorite conceit.

At least when Louis XIV proclaimed "*L'etat c'est moi,* (I am the state)," he was the rightful king. Marcos and GMA are merely errant—and arrant—pretenders.

What galled about Marcos' notion of pardoning the "enemies of the state" was that he wasn't even a legitimate instrument of the state, he merely seized the state with martial law. What galls about GMA's notion of pardoning the "enemies of the state" is that she isn't even a legitimate instrument of the state, she merely seized the state with "Hello Garci." Marcos had no business pardoning anybody, GMA has no business pardoning anybody.

I grant Trillanes does need pardoning—by a duly constituted authority. His crime precisely was rebelling against one. GMA was the duly constituted authority during the Oakwood mutiny, notwithstanding that the Erap hordes refuse to accept that. The people had spoken against Erap at Edsa, in the same way that the voters spoke for Trillanes in the last elections. I recognized GMA as my president at the time. I might not have liked her, I might have distrusted her—for crying out loud, and I say that to the people who eventually turned against her, wasn't the ambition patent from the start?—but I recognized her authority. I did not like Erap either, but I recognized his authority when he was president. Both carried the mandate of the people.

Certainly, I diligently paid my taxes throughout that time. I refuse to pay my taxes after the "Hello Garci" tape, and truly mind it that they are exacted from me anyway in the form of tax withdrawn and VAT. I acknowledge my duty to pay taxes to a duly constituted authority. This government is not a duly constituted authority.

But to go back, Trillanes does need a pardon for his mutiny to fully put that past behind him. But the ones who mounted whatever they call it—a coup, a withdrawal of support, another round of people power, a desperate frustrated attempt to get rid of someone who shouldn't be there—after the "Hello Garci" tape, they do not need a pardon, they need a medal. Certainly, Francisco Gudani and Alexander Balutan do not need a pardon, they need a medal. Certainly, Danny Lim and Ariel Querubin do not need a pardon, they need their freedom. They did not mount a coup, they tried to end one.

The one who needs pardoning, though the least likely to get it, is not Trillanes, it is GMA. Trillanes merely tried to seize power with a mutiny, and though he might have been well-intentioned, his means remains questionable. GMA did seize power with an atrocity—"Hello Garci" is, by and of itself, a coup d'etat, no more and no less than all the ones the RAM attempted against Cory—and there is no question about her intentions: they were selfish. "Hello Garci" is a lapse of judgment only in the same way that plagiarism is an oversight. They are nothing of the kind: the one is the ultimate crime of a president, the other of a writer.

Ermita's stated reason for GMA's plan to pardon the "enemies of the state" is to reconcile the warring factions and bring unity and peace to the land. Well, contrary to rumor or popular belief, Filipinos do not really have problems uniting. Not when confronted by a common threat. We had no problem uniting against Marcos, and we had no problem uniting against Erap. As the last elections show, or indeed as the popularity of the rebellions, or the figures associated with those rebellions, show, we have no problem as well uniting against Gloria.

Nor do we have any problem reconciling with one another. We simply have problems reconciling ourselves with illegitimacy, whether as the product of a union with the sacrament of marriage, or as the product of the occupation of office without the sacrament of the vote. She did get it the first time around, during Rizal Day, when she vowed not to run: Let us all do as Rizal did, and think of the nation first before self. She follows her advice and leaves, and overnight this country will be more united than anything glued by epoxy, and peace and harmony will swiftly descend upon the land.

The question is not: Should GMA pardon the "enemies of the state"? The question is: Should Juan de la Cruz pardon GMA?

Well, as Jaime Cardinal Sin used to say during Cory's time, pardon is contingent on contrition and penitence. You are not contrite or penitent when you say, "I ... am ... sorry," and punish yourself by having more and more power.

Teodoro as foil to Trillanes

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS APPARENTLY keeping the matter of a Cabinet revamp close to her chest, as few officials seem to know much about it, although talks of Cabinet changes have been rife for the past two weeks. Rumors of the impending appointment of former Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro to the defense post had swirled for a whole year and intensified after he turned down the President's suggestion that he run for senator. When Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane was moved to the defense department, the rumors about Teodoro died down, but it turned out that the former was merely warming the seat for him.

* * *

Teodoro, 43, has been quite low-key in the House and even during the heated debates in the two impeachment attempts, he was hardly heard. But the few times he opened his mouth to speak, he sounded suave, articulate and polished. He seldom gave interviews, but his credentials were enough to attract attention: a graduate of the UP College of Law Class '89, Harvard Law School for his master's and the National Defense College; bar topnotcher; chair of the House committee on defense and former head of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) in the House (from about 60 members several congresses ago, it's now down to about half its old strength). But for the media, Teodoro's most significant qualification is perhaps his being the favorite nephew of industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco. One can feel resistance to his appointment because of this factor, but his supporters argue that he was too young to fully understand what his uncle was up to in the 1970s with the coco levy funds and Marcos, and that they are two separate individuals. But certain acts of Teodoro in the past indicate how close their interests were.

* * *

From what I observed in the House, Teodoro preferred to operate in the background. I recall that he was obviously pulling the strings in the NPC's attempt three years ago to impeach then Chief Justice Hilario Davide in what was widely believed to be a proxy war for his uncle who had several unresolved cases in the Supreme Court. At that time, the NPC was the biggest bloc next to the ruling party and it flexed its muscles hard. During the deliberations on Davide's impeachment, Teodoro's good-looking wife, Nikki Prieto-Teodoro (who was elected recently to his old Tarlac seat), and other Cojuangco women were prominent in the galleries. In the light of public outrage over this move against the popular and respected Chief Justice, young Representatives Wimpy Fuentebella, Darlene Custodio and Jack Duavit were sent to the INQUIRER to explain the NPC's action. They were met by hostile editors, columnists and reporters who reduced them to tears or migraines. The journalists castigated their party for bringing the nation to the brink of a constitutional crisis, through a deadly confrontation between two branches of government. I recall asking to myself, "Where is Teodoro?" I hope he has since matured about the use of political power.

* * *

Teodoro's new appointment comes at a crucial time for the DND. The new Human Security Act of 2007, more popularly known as the Anti-Terrorism Law, will take effect on July 15 and it is causing a lot of anxieties among activist groups. His legal background, honed for eight years in the law office of Estelito Mendoza, could provide him handy tools.

Then there's the AFP's modernization program began by lawyer Avelino Cruz, which calls for close monitoring to avoid the pitfalls of built-in graft. And there's the peace processes that must be pushed as a crucial requisite to sustaining economic growth. Teodoro's appointment sits well with those who have clamored for another civilian in the mold of Cruz, who was viewed as a rather detached reformist technocrat. **Let's hope he's not overwhelmed by his political baggage, as Cruz was by his ties with "The Firm."**

* * *

It's quite possible that Teodoro was chosen by GMA to dazzle and awe the Armed Forces with his impressive credentials, so that he becomes a counter-foil to the high-powered media build-up of Antonio Trillanes who's in the same age bracket. To quote our INQUIRER colleague from Mindanao, Antonio J. Montalvan II, the former Oakwood rebel leader mesmerized 11 million Filipino voters by presenting himself as "a knight in shining armor who comes to save the republic from the ignominy of an unpopular administration." This he did by looking persecuted and hardly opening his mouth. It proved a very good campaign strategy, for after his election, Trillanes seems to be confirming suspicions that, as Montalvan put it, "there is nothing between those ears." Teodoro, by contrast, is expected to be sharp, bright and poised—a rich kid with brains.

He should be a foil as well to the two new opposition senators who never authored a single bill in the House and who won overwhelmingly because of their incredible press.

* * *

As for Ebdane, many people thought he had slid seamlessly into the defense post, after GMA took over briefly from Cruz. Thus, a good number of people were surprised when the appointment of Teodoro came. But what makes Ebdane's return to the DPWH more significant is that it comes at a time when a recent SWS survey placed that department among those with "very bad sincerity" (below 50 points) in dealing with corruption and bribery, along with the Bureau of Customs. The seventh in the annual SWS Business Survey on Corruption conducted with the Makati Business Club stressed that the DPWH and the BOC had improved their ratings from minus 66 to minus 55 and minus 74 to minus 68, respectively, but still the two agencies remained at the bottom, indicating that a lot of cleaning up is needed to be done there. Will Ebdane rise to the challenge of the new buzzword—"reformist governance"—while he pushes for the completion of mega-projects until 2010?

A Sunday dress code

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER HAD ON ITS FRONT page yesterday a picture of folks entering a Catholic church presumably for Sunday Mass wearing decidedly casual clothes. One man was even shown wearing floral-printed "*puruntong*" shorts and rubber slippers, which I seriously doubt would qualify as the classier-sounding "flip flops" that cost much more but look a lot like the lowly *tsinelas*.

Anyway, the decision to allot such major space on the front page of a daily to what people were wearing in church was justified in the caption citing a dress code issued by the Archdiocese of Manila last week.

The "dress code," presented in a poster issued to the various parishes in the archdiocese, says the regulations on "proper" and "improper" dress during Sunday Mass are based on "our dignity as baptized children of God," and that "the sacredness of the Eucharistic celebration urges all participants to dress, manifest the importance of what they are doing."

In a circular, Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari, assistant minister of the archdiocese's Ministry of Liturgical Affairs, said the guidelines were a response to "many requests" they had received from Mass-goers who were disturbed by other members of the faithful "who come to church to attend Mass or other liturgical functions garbed in a way that disrespects the sanctity of the House of God and the sacredness of the Liturgical Celebration."

The poster illustrates what constitutes "proper" and "improper" outfits for Sunday Mass and other liturgical celebrations. While "proper" garb calls for the usual short-sleeved or long-sleeved shirts, pants, dresses or uniforms, the injunctions against wearing certain types of clothes in Church seem more interesting.

"Improper" church attire seems to consist of anything that bares one's shoulders or arms, such as sleeveless or spaghetti-strapped tops and sports jerseys, reveals too much leg, like shorts or mini-skirts, or directs the eye downward, such as blouses with plunging necklines. And yet, the pious faithful also seem disturbed by men wearing baseball caps inside church, which has been deemed "improper." (Would a jaunty fedora qualify as "proper" garb?)

* * *

TO THINK we are decades away from the era when women and girls had to check where their hemlines fell before they felt they could go to Mass, or lugged along lacy veils to wear on their heads before entering a church.

When I was in grade school, a teacher warned us to make sure we were dressed properly for Sunday Mass because she heard Mass in different churches and if she spotted any of us wearing a too-short or sleeveless dress, she would personally haul us out of the Communion line.

I wondered then—and still do now—what Catholics had against bare arms. Were they an occasion for sin? I would think being required to move around at the height of a tropical summer in long-sleeved shirts and trousers would be a bigger sin. I mean, who could keep one's mind on the Mass then?

I suppose we can blame Vatican II for this, as a result of which women religious finally abandoned their wimples and floor-grazing habits, and women gleefully shucked off their veils, along with missals and kneelers.

We've certainly come a long way from the days when we took pains with our Sunday outfits, dressing up in frilly party dresses or discreet white habits with blue sashes; to these days when everyone in church seems dressed for a picnic, or a beach party.

* * *

THEN again, I suppose people for whom loose cotton shorts and plain T-shirts, rubber slippers and jeans constitute dressy attire, the new, more relaxed dress code would have been a welcome development.

After all, not everybody can afford to dress up for Sunday Mass, or else their idea of "dressing up" might not be what their more prosperous coparishioners would consider decent wear. But if the lack of proper attire keeps the poor and disadvantaged "unchurched," too embarrassed to show up in the House of God looking disheveled, then I say, to hell with a dress code! The major concern of parish priests and lay leaders should be to get people to go to church, not to pose as fashion police.

And if Mass-goers are distracted by bare arms, knobby knees and colorful baseball caps, then I think they're not paying enough attention to what's going on at the altar, or what their hearts and minds are telling them. If you go to Mass intent on policing what other people are wearing or doing, then you're going to church for the wrong reasons.

I would think our social and religious betters aren't giving God enough credit if they think He'd be scandalized by the fashion of the day. From what I know, He's more concerned about what's going on inside of us, not what we wear on Sundays.

* * *

THIS reminds me of a priest who warned his parishioners that women who were wearing IUDs would not be allowed to receive Communion in his parish. I wondered how he proposed to carry this out. Would he post himself at the Church door each Sunday and conduct an internal exam to search every woman for tell-tale signs of an IUD?

Who knows the state of the soul of every Mass-goer? Even if he should be clad in *puruntong* shorts, or she was traipsing along in a strapless, backless gown, does that necessarily reflect the person's state of grace—or sin? Bringing people closer to God is the point of a community liturgical celebration, not a picture-perfect congregation hewing to the standards of some Order of Decency.

'Library Hugs'

COMMENTARY

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

THE LIBRARY HUB PROJECT OF THE DEPARTment of Education must certainly be its best kept secret.

The recent mid-June inauguration of the 36th Library Hub in Guimaras of the DepEd in partnership with Petron Foundation had to compete for media coverage with the inauguration on the same day of the new international airport in Iloilo—and lost. But with or without the presence of special guests, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Petron executives Nicasio Alcantara and Khalid Al Faddagh, all flown in from Manila for the occasion, this was a noteworthy milestone.

True, there may not have been much human interest mileage as yet in a sparkling new building, but how can one dismiss this as an ordinary ribbon-cutting ceremony, a mere bureaucratic ritual?

In our sadly typical public school setting where libraries are unheard of because there are no books and no designated "item" for a librarian position, books to be read for pleasure are few and far between. With books deemed luxury items, the sudden availability in the Library Hubs of thousands of books to public school students in the district is literally mind-blowing.

If the students' exposure to the printed word was just limited, as it has been, to textbooks on newsprint, why should we be appalled that the students do not feel any love for reading? As all book lovers and teachers know, reading is an art and a skill that needs constant practice. What is the sense in enduring the drudgery of phonics and parroting meaningless syllables out loud to finally crack the code and be able to read, if the end goal was just to read textbooks and not literature that moves both mind and heart?

Time and again in teacher training workshops, teachers single out the lack of books as a principal reason students do not read. Immersing them (OK, as a realistic concession, at the very least, surrounding them with books) in print is an important dictum in getting them hooked. They need actual books to practice reading with. How could we have forgotten something so commonsensical?

I frequently get requests for book donations as responses to my articles on reading—from Negros to Davao and more recently, from a young police officer in Catanduanes who is very concerned about the lack of reading materials for his constituents in remote areas. Unfortunately, I can only refer them to organizations which may be of help. It frustrates me especially as I think of government funds going everywhere else but where it matters. Others as impassioned as I am about reading occasionally talk with a tinge of hope about the supposed funds allotted every legislator for the building and development of public libraries.

Fortunately, in recent times, we have been spared total despair with the Library Hub project of the DepEd. A brainchild of former Education Undersecretary for Finance and Administration Juan Miguel Luz, the concept of a "wholesale" library to make books available to elementary public school students and teachers in the district appeared to be the most practical answer to the need to make books accessible to students—if we are indeed serious in our avowed crusade of making every child a reader.

It was hard to believe that such a dream project would take off, but that was more believable than to dream of providing school libraries for all of the country's over 37,000 public elementary schools. A few Library Hubs were indeed built and operational in 2005, preceded by teacher training programs on how to use these trade books to enhance learning. The initial hubs were in Naga, Davao and Bacolod. Other hubs followed—in Pasig, Cabanatuan, Dumaguete, Batanes and Bukidnon.

Pardon the cynicism, but the most amazing feature of the project is that it has continued today, even in the absence of Luz from the DepEd. An excellent project can and does thrive on its own, despite bureaucratic challenges. Beverly Gonda, a DepEd employee who was there when the project began, almost singlehandedly continues the project, determined to meet the year's target of doubling the 35 hubs on record.

It is tremendous help that the current DepEd undersecretary and former bank executive Ted Sangil is as committed to Luz's vision of a Library Hub. Gonda and her assistant, Herman Belles, tirelessly coordinate with local governments on the ongoing construction of the hubs and schedule teacher training programs all-year round on a shoestring budget.

The Guimaras Library Hub is a Petron Foundation undertaking as part of the company's Ligtas Guimaras project. The construction of the hub itself was assigned to its partner foundation, Sa Aklat Sisikat, which also arranged for a substantial book donation from the San Francisco Public Library in the United States. Bato-Balani Foundation contributed books, boosting the book bundles of 100-200 books in plastic waterproof, wheeled storage bins ready to be checked out and enjoyed by young readers. It will use a barcode-scanner system for its inventory and circulation.

This hub is unique in that it has a training room which is meant for storytelling sessions and meetings. There is also an IT room with three networked computers for use by teachers and students.

Little wonder that in a not totally inappropriate Freudian slip, some teachers have taken to calling these structures "Library Hugs."

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz is a writer and editor, a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People and a trustee of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation. E-mail comments to nenisrc@gmail.com

Cheaters

YOUNG BLOOD

Natalie Pardo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

ANOTHER WORKING DAY HAD ENDED. I LEFT THE office at past six in the evening, which was later than usual. Since I moved in here to my new job, I usually step out of the building as the clock strikes six.

I must say that that day was different, not only because I left the office later than I used to but because I felt lethargic and frustrated. I was exhausted from the day's work, and frustrated because I was supposed to get my salary (which was two days delayed) but still didn't have it in my hands at the end of the working day. The accountant promised to pay me the next day, which meant I had to wait one more day to pay my tuition in full.

Adding to my frustration was the difficulty of getting a ride on a bus. After waiting for nearly an hour along the sidewalk of Gil Puyat Avenue, I made up my mind to take the next bus that would stop even if it was full.

Five minutes passed before a bus finally stopped. Just as I imagined, it was awfully jam-packed. But desperate to go home and get some rest, I got on the bus and found myself being choked inside it. It was so crowded that I could smell the vinegary stink of the man standing radically close to me. The driver seemed insensitive and greedy, stopping to pick up more passengers even if there was no more room inside the bus.

One man blurted out in protest, "*Ganito pala ang feeling ng mga sardinas sa loob ng lata*(So this is how sardines feel inside a can)! " The sarcasm made me smirk.

It was just a 30-minute trip to LRT Buendia, but the fatigue I felt made it seem as if I had traveled all the way home to Bicol. Passengers who went on and off the bus always seemed to bump into me. At every stop where new passengers got in, the conductor kept reminding us, "*Sa mga hindi pa po nagbabayad, kung maaari lamang ay magbayad na* (To those who haven't paid their fare, please pay now)."

Since he was hemmed in by passengers, he could not track who had paid and who had not paid their fare. There were some passengers who got on and off the bus without paying, just like the two men who were standing next to me. May God bless their conscience. And may He bless mine, too, for like them, I did not pay the fare.

It was not until I started walking toward the train station that I realized that what I did was unbelievable and completely wrong. Why unbelievable? Because I never imagined myself doing something like that. I hate thieves, cheaters and everyone who does crooked things. And here I was doing the same thing, and making me one of them. That simple act of dishonesty made me one of the people I abhor.

As I was going up to the LRT station, my disgust continued to grow. I began formulating reasons for my own defense: I was just not myself at that very moment; what I did was only fair because I was standing the whole time; the heaving passengers made it impossible for me to reach for my coin purse inside my bag. I kept trying to make up many reasons, but all of them were unsound and invalid.

I found it hard to accept that such act made me no different from candidates for public office who steal votes and cheat their way to their positions. And then when they get what they want, they keep on cheating the people by acting as if they are serving them when in fact they are just serving their own interests.

Just like what I did: I had gotten off the bus acting coolly and walked away like someone who had paid his fare. That was clear proof that I was a cheater.

I was still trying hard to justify my dirty little act, when a train stopped. As I went in, I told myself "All right, I give up." Then I acknowledged to myself that it was all my fault. I was unfair. I had stolen from somebody. I had cheated. I had not given the driver and the conductor what I ought to and what they deserved.

I fervently hope our politicians will feel the same: that they will realize and admit their faults and give the people what is their due. I pray that they will not put into their pockets what they do not own, and that they will not steal votes for that is like stealing people's souls, which is far worse than stealing their money.

As I got off the train, I promised never to repeat what I had done. That single act of dishonesty compromised my integrity and diminished my self-respect, and I do not want to lose them all.

Natalie Pardo, 20, is a BA Communication Arts graduate of the University of the Philippine Los Baños and works as an executive assistant in a gaming company.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

"...Draw upon the capacity and ingenuity of our people ...to attain a resilient and viable economy."
—*President Ramon Magsaysay speaks before the Business Writers Association, Feb. 20, 1956*

"In the present state of our economy, the practice of thrift should not be a mere habit but a patriotic duty."
—*President Ramon Magsaysay on launching "Thrift Year," June 1, 1954*

"The prime function of government is service to the people. The government shall not only respect the people's rights but shall actively encourage their exercise."
—*State of the Nation Address of President Ramon Magsaysay, Jan. 28, 1957*

"The vast army of public servants are the grass-roots basis of the success or failure of government."
—*President Ramon Magsaysay speaks before the Philippine Government Employees Association, Dec. 9, 1955*

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Community work now graver crime than call to rebellion?

LETTERS

I NOTE WITH DEEPENING CONcern how concepts are easily twisted to serve the political ends of the Arroyo regime. The contradictions and the ironies are patent in the statement made by the bizarre Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, on his department's decision to drop the coup charges against Senator-elect Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan. Let me quote him:

"Direct causal relationships are not sufficiently established. Respondent senator's NRP ('National Recovery Program'), his speeches and statements espousing that the use of violence in the overthrow of government appears to be necessary, are acts covered by the free speech clause."

Is that so? Is it now the official policy of the Philippine government that advocating violence is merely part of the so-called "democratic noises" and does not threaten the state, and is therefore legal?

I call the justice secretary's attention to the hundreds of victims of extrajudicial killings, allegedly committed by the military and police operatives, under the Arroyo administration. Was Jonas Burgos' espousal of organic farming now deemed more dangerous than the advocacy of armed uprising, so much so that he had to be "disappeared," while Honasan is granted bail, allowed to campaign and run for senator, and then finally cleared of all charges against him?

Why would the espousal of revolution by the rightists merit kid-gloves treatment and even philosophical discernment from the State, while teach-ins, conscientization and organizing work by the leftists constitute "terrorism"?

Was there a deal with Honasan? Where is justice for the disappeared? What will issue next from the highly complex brain of the justice secretary? And this usual question from us, foreign observers: What is happening to the Philippines?

—NARIYA WALYEENA,
272 Pavilion Parade,
Woodlane Road,
London W10, United Kingdom

FLAGS line Roxas Boulevard in celebration of Independence Day INQUIRER PHOTO

Gov't overlooks rural workers

WE APPLAUD THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment's annual celebration of Rural Workers Month as it is but proper to recognize the rural workers' contributions to food security and the national economy.

However, government should do more than hold a fete for the workers. At the very least, it should ensure the protection of their rights and welfare. Rural workers account for one-third of the country's total labor force and, indeed, they immensely contribute to agricultural productivity and food security.

Unfortunately, rural workers remain virtually "invisible" to the government, which hardly extends them support services. This means that most of these workers have no social security and receive very low wages. Our own study of farm workers shows an increasing incidence of poverty among those who are engaged in the production of rice, corn, sugar and coconut.

While there is a social amelioration program for regular sugarcane workers, this program does not extend to seasonal or contractual sugarcane workers. It is high time that the government addressed the lack of a policy protecting the rights and welfare of the agricultural farm workers.

The last governing policy recognizing the rights of farm workers was legislated during the term of President Diosdado Macapagal. The main purpose of that law was to abolish agricultural share tenancy, and the bill of rights of the farm workers was a mere rider in the law. What is required now is to enact a bill that specifically promotes the rights and welfare of the agricultural farm workers. The enactment of this legislation would go a long way toward protecting the rights and welfare of the agricultural farm workers.

—EUGENE TECSON,
researcher and
policy advocacy officer,
Land Tenure Center,
Centro Saka Inc., Rm. 321,
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Diliman, Quezon City

Seniors should enjoy retirement

SENIOR CITIZENS HAVE BEEN pushed off an economic cliff, and they are just beginning to get a grasp of the insanity that has caused them incomprehensible harm and stress during this period of their lives when they should be enjoying retirement. And they have been kept in the dark regarding decisions that contributed to a systemic hyperinflationary cycle (2000-2007).

We call on investigative journalists to recalculate the true inflationary damage caused by a lack of regulatory controls (during this unprecedented historic period) on:

- Energy costs: anti-consumer/anti-trade conduct—$40 to $50 per barrel profit for oil companies due to monopolies.
- Education: tuition rates double; exploitation of predatory lending for education.
- Housing bubble
- Health care
- Transportation

Facing economic survival and property loss, the seniors are now calling for full disclosure and a strategic plan that addresses the consequences of neglect by those entrusted with the responsibility to protect the people's interests. One major issue on the table is tax freeze/homestead exemptions.

—S.M. APATOW,
president, director of research
and Development, Humanitarian
University Consortium
Graduate Studies Center
for Medicine, Veterinary
Medicine and Law,
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Why was celebration of Independence Day antedated?

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE of Independence Day? Isn't it supposed to be the second biggest day, after Christmas, worth commemorating and celebrating with so much joy and fanfare? Isn't it the day millions of Filipinos finally became free from centuries of subjugation and oppression?

If Independence Day is that important, what was Malacañang thinking when it moved its celebration a day earlier?

On June 12, 2007, Filipinos should have been celebrating Independence Day out in the streets instead of working their butts off inside offices and factories and at construction sites.

In its obsession with "economic holidays," Malacañang doesn't care a hoot that it diminishes the significance of the most important of our historical events and cultural legacies.

Or was Malacañang's decision to "antedate" Independence Day just a reflection of a people's waning love for freedom? Or was it an admission by Malacañang that the Philippines, under the Arroyo administration, is after all no longer a free country?

—KRIS JOHN C. SUÑGA,
sungakris@yahoo.com

Unequal treatment for Misuari and military 'rebels'

BRIG. GEN. DANILO LIM, COL. Ariel Querubin, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and other bemedalled soldiers are languishing in jail and are not allowed visitors, except immediate members of their families who are thoroughly searched.

What crimes have they committed that they are treated like hardened criminals? Are they corrupt? Are they plunderers? Are they involved in *dagdag-bawas* election fraud? Are they murderers? Have they committed treason? They are not even allowed to use cell phones.

Why is Trillanes in handcuffs whenever he attends court hearings or goes to the Commission on Elections—in spite of the battalion of soldiers closely guarding him? And why was he in handcuffs when he was escorted to the Comelec to be proclaimed senator? His handcuffs were removed only after people in the Comelec protested.

On the other hand, Nur Misuari—who is accused of treason; of waging a war against the Philippines, a war that saw thousands of soldiers and innocent civilians killed and wounded; of plundering billions of pesos allotted for the development of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—is being given royal treatment, enjoying the amenities of an air-conditioned palatial residence built for President Erap Estrada. He is allowed visitors, and can watch TV, listen to radio, and use a cell phone.

When he filed his certificate of candidacy in Mindanao, he was provided with a private airplane and allowed to go around to campaign. Who paid for that plane trip? We saw on TV that he was not guarded by soldiers but by plainclothesmen believed to be his own security. Why?

Misuari's royal treatment by the government is a far cry from Trillanes' woeful treatment by the military. A rebel gets better treatment than our soldiers do.

Is the President or the AFP chief of staff aware that the military is like a rumbling volcano ready to explode because of the bad things the government is doing? They should look deeply into the victory of Trillanes in the last senatorial election and read the message that the Filipino soldiers and the people have writ in it.

God bless the Philippines! God save our country!

—CESAR S. REYES,
cesoreyes@yahoo.com

Self-sufficiency key to food security

MAY WE COMMENT ON THE item "DBM urges shift in agri department's rice policy." (INQUIRER, 6/4/07)

The report noted the two-year budget strategy outlined by the Department of Budget and Management that stressed on "a policy shift away from rice sufficiency to supply-led stabilization" because the Philippines has purportedly a "comparative disadvantage in rice growing, and rice self-sufficiency is both costly and illusory."

This proposal obviously comes from trade liberalization advocates and is championed by multinational financial institutions. A policy such as this will result in our country's perpetual dependence on foreign sources for our rice requirements. It is a recipe for disaster in two ways: one, we would be unduly exposed to the constraints of rice supply in the world market; two, our markets will continuously be flooded with cheap rice imports that could spell the death of our local grain industry.

In late 2003, there were reports of rice supply instability in the world market because of the fall in rice production in China for five successive years. Succeeding crop failures could lead to chaos in the global market as more than 100 grain-importing countries will have to scramble for scarce exportable supplies. The shrinking rice supply in the world market has become grimmer following a recent report that the tight rice supply in the world market, and the high demand and consequent high prices have raised concern among low-income rice-importing countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

With these gloomy prospects, there is no choice left for us but to proceed with our country's rice self-sufficiency program.

Rice production is our nation's most important economic activity. Our government set a goal to attain rice self-sufficiency by 2009. The 2007 production target is 16 million metric tons (MMT) palay or 10.4 MMT rice equivalent. Considering the present daily rice requirement of 32,000 metric tons or 11.68 MMT for the year, this leaves us a deficit of around 1.28 MMT. We have been covering this production shortfall with rice importations, in the last six years. This deficit can be more than filled up if we can plant year-round because of new or improved irrigation facilities; and we can lessen our losses with more post-harvest and storage facilities.

In fact, we are now on the right track as there is an increase in rice yield per hectare as well as in farmers' income. With sufficient budgetary support for the Department of Agriculture, we increase the likelihood of achieving our goal toward rice self-sufficiency.

If we want to talk of genuine food security, there is no real substitute for self-sufficiency.

—ROMAN M. SANCHEZ,
national president,
National Food Authority
Employees Association
(NFA-EA) Courage,
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Complaining retiree's GSIS pension up to date

IN REPLY TO THE LETTER OF Bienvenido P. Cortes, "Inefficient eCard Plus handling" (INQUIRER, 6/19/07), our record shows that, except for April and May 2007, the crediting of Cortes' 2006 bonus and monthly pension to his eCard account has always been on time as follows—Jan. 3 (bonus), Jan. 5, Feb. 1, March 1 and June 7.

Cortes received his April pension, not on April 21 but four days earlier, that is, April 17. His May pension was credited on June 4—or 15 days before his letter was published in the INQUIRER. His monthly pension has therefore been updated.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Time to remove deadwood

I AGREE WITH GOV. BEN EVARdone that the time has come for President Macapagal-Arroyo to reorganize her Cabinet (INQUIRER, 6/19/07) and get rid of the deadwood and rusty anchors that only serve to pull down her administration.

The President can turn the May 14, 2007 political disaster (for her administration) into an opportunity and thus give her administration added buoyancy and higher credibility by that simple and expedient act.

Number one on her list should be Raul Gonzalez. This rabid loyalist of the President only succeeds in hurting her administration each time he opens his mouth. The Arroyo presidency will undoubtedly enjoy greater stability and a better image once Gonzalez is shown the exit door.

—MANUEL P. MEJORADA,
provincial administrator, Iloilo,
boymejo@gmail.com

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Changing the rules

COMMENTARY

Ricardo Saludo

IT'S THE LAW. THE SUPREME COURT CAN "promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, pleading, practice, and procedures in all courts, the admission to the practice of law, the integrated bar, and legal assistance to the underprivileged."

So says Article VII, Section 5, of the Constitution. With this power in mind, Chief Justice Reynato Puno plans to call a multisectoral summit this month to discuss how the Supreme Court's power to make and change rules could be harnessed in the battle against political killings and disappearances.

For instance, in granting a writ of habeas corpus, the Court could order periodic reports on efforts to find a missing person, rather than just letting the Philippine National Police or the Armed Forces of the Philippines say that the PNP or AFP doesn't have him.

Both the government and activist groups, including those affiliated with the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF), have welcomed the summit proposal. Certainly, harnessing the perspectives, efforts and good will or enlightened self-interest of many sectors would do much to solve and stop the killings.

Since 2001, Amnesty International and the INQUIRER count about 300 "extrajudicial killings." In addition, there have been about 900 civilians killed by the rebel New People's Army and another 362 by the Abu Sayyaf.

Any further assessment of the summit's usefulness has to wait for its objectives, agenda, participants and other details to emerge, not to mention the summiteers' sincerity, mutual trust and willingness to cooperate. But initial comments can be made on the idea of changing rules to stop political killings.

First, some may advocate new judicial procedures to address deficiencies in governance and law. The Chief Justice spoke of possibly altering the scope of command responsibility, which makes superiors responsible for the acts of their subordinates.

At present, the PNP and AFP command structures, headed by the President as commander in chief, enforce command responsibility by sanctioning officers whose underlings perform badly. In addition, the Revised Penal Code, the Administrative Code, the Articles of War, and other laws enacted by Congress set parameters on the culpability and liability of government and security officials.

Hypothetically, however, court rules could be changed to include in murder arraignments not just soldiers or police accused of pulling the trigger, but their commanders and even higher officials. By making the latter potentially liable for unabated murders, it may be argued, they would be pressured to take more stringent measures against the killings.

One can understand how such a tack might be provoked by the government's inability to end the bloodletting. But an act by the judiciary to stretch command responsibility could encroach on prerogatives of the executive and legislative branches. Indeed, the Chief Justice acknowledged that exercising the Supreme Court's rule-making function might conflict with the lawmaking power of Congress.

Besides the separation of powers, a second consideration in changing judicial rules to stop killings is its impact on jurisprudence in general. Rulings on incidents involving government bodies and forces could be applied to other cases.

Consider the Supreme Court's recent decision to overrule a prosecutor's finding of probable cause against six party-list congressmen accused of rebellion. If affirmed by most of the justices, the ruling would alter the fundamental tenet that the Supreme Court handles only matters of law, leaving preliminary investigation and trials of facts to lower courts and prosecutorial bodies in possession of first-hand information about cases. Thus, there is concern that any warrant of arrest issued by a court or fiscal—dozens of them daily—could be elevated to the highest court of the land.

A third—and potentially the most problematic—issue is the absence of any way to challenge rule changes made by the Supreme Court, short of impeaching the justices and appointing new ones to rectify objectionable decisions. If Congress believes its legislative power is being usurped, for instance, where could it get a restraining order on the Court? Other aggrieved parties, including those in the security establishment, might simply resist judicial rulings—or worse.

This is not to say there should be no rule changes. Indeed, consulting various entities on the issue, including co-equal branches of government, through a summit is the right way forward. In their deliberations, the summiteers would do well to remember that their goals are to obtain justice not just for the dead, but also for the living, and to protect the rights of both victims and accused.

The Chief Justice said that the killings show a loss of confidence in the judicial system. The murderers' apparent impunity suggests that they do not fear the long arm of the law. Moreover, some of those who resort to violence may believe the legal process is powerless against extremist groups and their supporters, and extralegal measures are needed to fight back. Any new judicial rules should address such perceived failings and not give more reason to lose faith in the system.

Beyond rule-making, the summit should ultimately aim for peace-making. We must put our heads, hearts and hands together to give material, technical and moral support to law enforcers; to educate and motivate the citizenry, especially witnesses, in standing up for the rights of all; and to rebuild trust and end hostilities between government and rebel forces, which both have blood on their hands.

May the summit bring forth a common front for justice and peace.

Ricardo Saludo is secretary of the Cabinet.

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Quarrying first item on Panlilio agenda

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has put in place a new system to monitor quarry operations and collection of sand taxes in a bid to end irregularities that had hounded the Lapid administration and to be able to generate more money for social services.

The new system took effect on Saturday on the strength of two executive orders signed by Panlilio.

In Executive Order No. 2007-1, Panlilio required a "strict implementation" of Tax Ordinance No. 1, which the provincial government has enforced during the administration of the late former Gov. Bren Guiao.

Through Executive Order No. 2007-2, he organized a special committee to implement the new system until July 31.

Known by its acronym "Balas" or Biyaya a Luluguran at Sisikapan (a resource that is tended and properly used) and headed by four appointees the special committee would stop its functions once the provincial mining and regulatory board is created and convened in August.

GOV. Eddie Panlilio greets supporters prior to his oath-taking at the Pampanga provincial capitol. The priest-turned-public official's first agenda was to reform the way the province was collecting taxes from its multimillion-peso quarry industry. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

First moves

The EOs were the first orders that Panlilio, a Catholic priest, signed immediately after he took his oath of office on Saturday, provincial administrator Vivian Dabu told the INQUIRER.

In his inaugural speech, Panlilio vowed that he would "clean very well the system of collecting quarry taxes that will finance programs especially roads and other infrastructures that will invite more investments for the people."

Panlilio required quarry operators to validate their existing permits, renew those that are set to lapse or get one for those operating illegally. They will be issued provisional authority to operate.

He also required haulers to pay the sand tax of P300 per truckload at the office of the provincial treasurer.

This means that Panlilio stopped the old system where the haulers paid at quarry checkpoints established on roadsides.

He appointed 80 personnel as checkers who have been assigned in checkpoints to validate the authenticity of the government-issued receipts.

Priority

In both orders, Panlilio stressed the need to "develop systems to maximize [the quarry industry's potential at] income generation."

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, who has kept a vigilant watch against alleged irregularities at the capitol, welcomed Panlilio's moves.

"I am happy the quarry issue is being addressed this early. It is right that he gives in priority attention," Guiao said.

He said correcting the quarry collection system was one of the "most urgent" tasks of Panlilio in light of proper use of public resources such as the sand spewed out by Mt. Pinatubo during its 1991 eruptions.

Guiao said he and the provincial board would support efforts seeking to improve the quarry system.

Former Gov. Mark Lapid and his father, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, have denied Guiao's allegations that they had pocketed the income from quarry taxes during their respective stints since 1995.

The younger Lapid reported leaving the capitol with at least P490.34 million in outstanding cash balance. His statement did not cite quarry collections, though.

Guiao has filed a graft case against the Lapids for the alleged theft of revenue from quarry funds. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Baguio execs tighten curfew for city minors

BAGUIO CITY—THE FIRST DIRECTIVE ISsued by the city's new officials was to tighten Baguio's curfew among minors to stop crimes involving the youth here.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the curfew, which takes effect between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following day, is a necessary approach for the city government now that vandalism, unruliness and youth-related violence occur sporadically.

Senior Supt. Moises Guevarra, city police chief, said incidents involving minors make up an insignificant portion of the city's daily crime reports.

But youths are slowly being identified with local gangs, whose members are no older than 22 years old, Guevarra said.

Police have started monitoring these groups' usual hangouts because of reports that they have been involved in several snatching and pickpocket cases, he said.

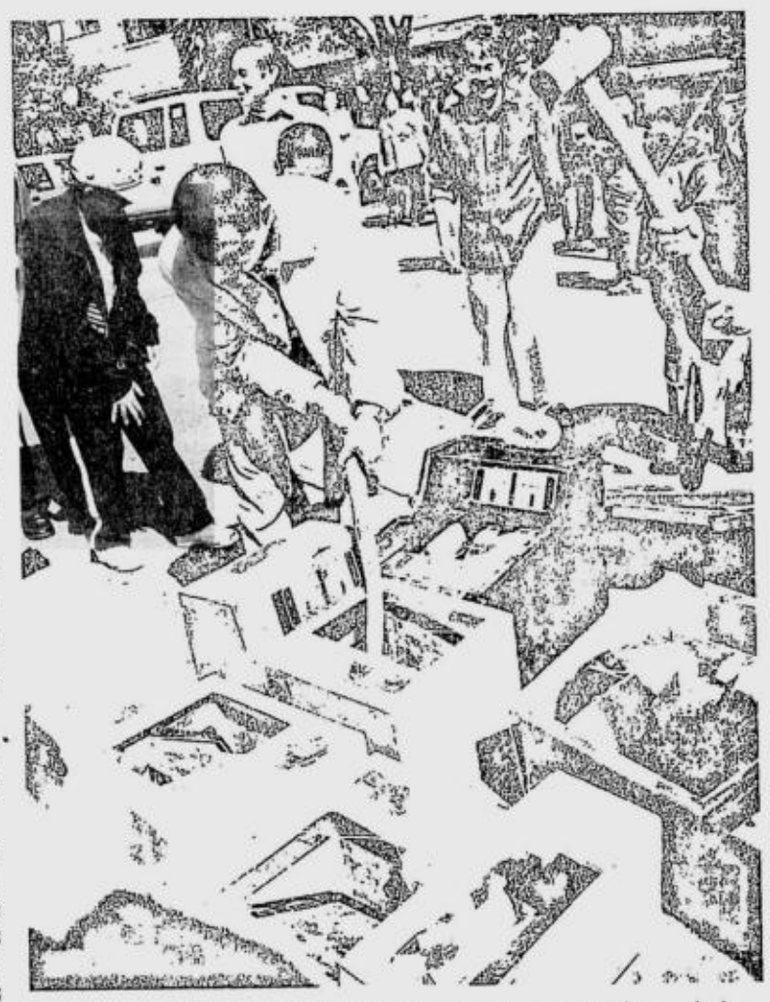
Many of these youths have been observed hanging around the city's pedestrian overpasses.

Downtown Baguio and villages around the business district have also witnessed street fights between rival groups, claiming to be fraternities.

Bautista said the city needs to offer youths "a lifestyle change," through a curfew rule, as well as new ordinances that would widen the coverage of "no smoking" zones, and the regulation of sales of liquor.

Former Mayor Braulio Yaranon imposed a curfew on Baguio establishments that operate at night, affecting bars and music lounges that cater to a young market.

"Instead of imprisonment, we took the developmental approach to channel the energies of minors into community service," Bautista said in a blog. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



TAKING a tough stance against vices, Baguio City officials use sledge hammers and axes to destroy gambling machines in their first act after the elections. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Albay execs appeal to GMA for direct release of funds

LEGAZPI CITY—LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXECutives here are awaiting the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo of the request of former Albay Gov. Fernando V. Gonzales to directly distribute the amount of P100 million to the intended local government units that have rehabilitation projects to be implemented.

Earlier, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had informed Gonzales of the approval of the Office of the President of the P100 million calamity fund for the province, chargeable against the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort fund provided under Republic Act No. 9401 (CY 2007 General Appropriations Act).

Gonzales, however, wrote Ms Arroyo a letter dated June 8, 2007, asking the President to instead release only P30 million to the province for the rehabilitation and restoration of five district and rural hospitals and the balance of P70 million directly to the seven LGUs in the province.

More efficient

This, he said, would ensure faster implementation of the rehabilitation projects as the local government executives know these projects better. That way, he said, the implementation of the projects would be more efficient.

He said it was important to finish the project ahead of time because the rainy days are already here.

If the President approves Gonzales' request, the P70 million will go to the following: City of Ligao, P20 million, for rehabilitation of damaged flood control and communal irrigation systems; Municipality of Daraga, P15 million, for repair of damaged flood control structures, farm-to-market roads and irrigation systems; Municipality of Guinobatan, P10 million, for rehabilitation of communal irrigation system, flood control structures and farm-to-market roads; Municipality of Camalig, P6 million, for rehabilitation of flood control structures and irrigation systems; Municipality of Sto. Domingo, P6 million, for rehabilitation of flood control structures and farm-to-market roads; Municipality of Jovellar, P3 million, for rehabilitation of flood control structures and farm-to-market roads; and Legazpi City, P10 million, rehabilitation of damaged flood control structures, roads and bridges and communal irrigation systems.

The heads of the concerned LGUs expressed hope that the President will announce her approval of the request during the National Disaster Coordinating Council and Cabinet meeting here on Tuesday. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

US training firm denies recruitment

AN AMERICAN TRAINER HAS DENIED ALLEgations of a singer-comedienne that she was promised a teaching job in the United States.

"I never promised Cynthia Patag that she could land a teaching job in the US. And it was clearly stated in her membership contract that EWRC is not a placement agency," said Norman Gibbs, president of E-World Resource Center Inc. (EWRC).

Last month, Patag filed swindling charges against Gibbs and his associates at the Iloilo City prosecutor's office.

She said Gibbs had repeatedly told participants of E-World's training that the US needed more than a million teachers under the "No Child Left Behind Act," a federal law signed by President George W. Bush in 2001.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Gibbs admitted there was a large demand for teachers in the United States.

"It is like saying there is a demand for nurses, or for engineers in the Middle East. That statement is a fact and does not constitute recruitment or a promise of a job," he added. *Inquirer Visayas*

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New pests threatening coconut trees, farmers, planters warned

SAN PABLO CITY—COCONUT tree experts in Laguna have warned coconut plantation owners and farm managers in this city and the adjoining town of Alaminos about a newly identified coconut leaf beetle which, they said, may be infesting coconut trees by now.

Lanie M. Lapitan, provincial coconut development manager, identified the new bug as *Brontispa longissima* during her meeting with farm managers and plantation owners at a resort here on June 30, a press report furnished the INQUIRER said.

Small pest

Lapitan, the report said, believed the destructive beetle might have been unknowingly brought into the country by returning travelers who bought infected palms from abroad.

She said it was quite difficult to detect the presence of the coconut leaf beetle, now more popularly known by its scientific name brontispa, in the leaves of coconut and other palms as it is very tiny and measures only about 9 millimeters in length, and 1.5 to 2 mm in width.

The lifespan of the pest is 36 days in larval stages, and 54 days in adulthood.

This beetle is flat and slender. Its color is generally black, except for the yellow-orange to red color of the neck and the basal portion of its wings, the report said.

Cecile C. Manzanilla, an entomologist at the Regional Crop Protection Center of the Department of Agriculture based in Los Baños and a member of the Laguna Task Force Brontispa, was also quoted by the report as saying that the adults and the larva of this coconut leaf beetle stay between the unopened leaflets of the young leaves of the coconut trees.

They feed on the soft tissues and the affected parts of the tree will eventually dry up.

Predator

The brontispa brings about the death of the coconut tree within several months by attacking the developing leaves and the cambium or growing layer of the tree.

At present, the Task Force Brontispa is culturing earwig, a useful insect that could be used as predator or natural enemy of the insect.

It is also studying other methods of combating the pest, like the use of green muscadine fungus and white muscadine fungus which are considered safe compared with mechanical and chemical methods of eradicating the destructive insect.

As early as February this year, Lapitan said they had been distributing leaflets about this malady of coconut and other palm trees in Laguna, where there are 25 coconut-producing city and towns, and other provinces.

The plantation owners are advised to inspect their plants for the presence of the pest.

They are also taught how to collect and preserve specimen of beetle for submission to the nearest provincial office of the Philippine Coconut Authority where they are maintaining laboratory facilities for pest control activities. *Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

GMA help sought vs power line pilferage

LEGAZPI CITY—THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. is seeking the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo in putting a stop to the pilferage of transmission lines and towers.

Guillermo Redoblado, Transco vice president for Luzon operation and maintenance, said the theft of tower parts had not abated, the latest of which occurred on Thursday last week, causing the Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant (TGPP) to be cut off from the Luzon Grid.

Redoblado said they were now getting desperate in putting a stop to pilferage as nothing positive had come out from their coordination with various law enforcement agencies, local officials and even the Church.

He acknowledged the Cafgu detachment put up by the Philippine Army somewhere in Camarines Sur but it did not help deter thieves from destroying the towers.

Redoblado said they had also gone to the Philippine National Police in the region and in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay where the pilferage was rampant but nothing positive had come out yet.

P68-M loss

Based on estimates released by the Transco District Office in Barangay Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay, the damages to the transmission lines caused by the theft of its parts last June 28 reached P68 million, excluding lost revenues and potential economic cost to consumers.

The TGPP has a rated capacity of 180 megawatts and serves as a major source of power for the Bicol Region in times when the region gets isolated from the Luzon Grid.

Redoblado said they would ask the help of Ms Arroyo in directing law enforcement agencies to help Transco stop pilferage.

He said if Bicol gets disconnected from the Luzon Grid now, it would be plunged in total darkness as it would have no alternative source of power due to the damages on TGPP.

"It seems that our officials do not realize how serious the effects of these pilferages to the region would be," he said.

The problem was on the agenda of candidates last elections but now, no one seems to bother anymore.

Sought for comment, Senior Supt. Romeo Tambungi, newly-installed provincial police director of Camarines Sur, said he would call the attention of the investigation section to determine what action had already been taken by his predecessor, saying he was barely two weeks in his post.

The provincial director of Albay could not be reached by phone while his deputy refused to take INQUIRER's calls. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

New highway to shorten travel time in Batangas

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LIPA CITY—A 19.7-KILOMETER highway being built at a cost of P2.75 billion is expected to cut travel time from here to Batangas City by at least 25 minutes, according to the road project developer Star Infrastructure Development Corp. (SIDC).

The Star Tollway Phase II is being undertaken through the national government's build-operate-transfer scheme with highway operator Star Tollway Corp. (STC), which will expire in 2030.

It aims to extend the 22-km two-lane Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) from Sto. Tomas town to Barangay Balagtas in Batangas City. The road only reaches this city at present.

Completion

Exit and entry points will be built in Barangays Tambo (Lipa), Malainin (San Jose town) and Balagtas.

Started in January 2006, the project is expected to be completed this December.

Engineer Pablito Limbo, SIDC project engineer, told the INQUIRER that the existing tollway reduced travel time from Sto. Tomas to Lipa from one hour and 30 minutes to 15 minutes. The extension to Batangas will further cut travel time to Lipa by 25 minutes, he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said the tollway extension project would provide faster passenger and cargo transport between the Visayas and Mindanao going to Manila through the Strong Republic Nautical Highway.

The Batangas port is the entry point from Mindoro Island, which is linked to Caticlan, Aklan, by the roll-on roll-off ferry system. It has the second largest volume of passengers at 3.9 million, next to Zamboanga, according to the Philippine Ports Authority.

Ms Arroyo said the project would also help provide faster transport in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) area, which produces 54 percent of the country's export products.

GMA offers projects as 'gifts' to bishop

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday reaffirmed her commitment to push the development of northern Luzon as the country's agribusiness hub, citing various projects as "gifts" to Bishop Ramon Villena and the people of Cagayan Valley.

In a speech during Monday's celebration of Villena's 25th year as Catholic bishop, Ms Arroyo thanked the bishop for his services as a "champion of social justice, and a leader not only for the Church but for the entire country."

Cabinet members, 12 Catholic bishops, about 50 priests and local officials attended that event, which was highlighted by a three-hour Mass at the Saint Dominic Cathedral here.

Family friend

Ms Arroyo credited Villena, also chair of the regional development council (RDC) in Cagayan Valley, for uplifting the welfare of indigenous peoples and for his advocacy to protect the environment.

"[Villena's advocacies] all form part of the Arroyo [administration's] social agenda. If we will continue to push these, our country will be on the right direction towards a sustained economic growth," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said her administration is offering Villena "as gifts" the Aritao-Benguet Road, which is nearing completion, and the rehabilitation of the Bagabag Airport, which she inspected Monday.

But Ms Arroyo did not mention the issue of large-scale mining that Villena has opposed in the province.

Villena earlier expressed concern that the program to develop the agriculture sector in northern Luzon would clash with the interests of foreign companies eyeing large-scale mining projects in the region, especially in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

In his response, Villena said the President's visit "had nothing to do with politics." He described Ms Arroyo as a "family friend."

Villena was ordained bishop on July 2, 1982. Prior to his appointment as bishop here in 1987, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Tagum in Davao in 1983 and became coadjutor bishop of Nueva Vizcaya in 1985. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is greeted by Bishop Ramon Villena during the celebration of his 25th Espicopal Ordination held in the St. Dominic Cathedral in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. Beside her is Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Ma. Lourdes Cuaresma. Villena, who is a vocal anti-mining and anti-jueteng advocate, does not enjoy a close relationship with the elected governor, according to locals. LYN RILLON

DENR personnel face probe for illegal cutting of tree

By Romy G. Amarado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE GOVERNMENT's environmental office here is looking at the possible involvement of its personnel in an unauthorized tree cutting in Pamplona town.

Charlie Fabre, environment and natural resources officer of the Dumaguete-based Community and Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro), said he has created a three-man investigation team to determine whether a Cenro employee had a hand in the cutting and sawing of a narra tree in Pamplona, 40 km northwest of Dumaguete City.

Fabre created the team after the Pamplona police confiscated last June 22 some 246 board feet of sawn narra lumber. The police identified the owner as one Julito Elvina.

> 'The seized lumber bore a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hatchet mark'

Fabre said the seized lumber bore a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hatchet mark, which meant that his office permitted the cutting and the sawing of the lumber.

However, Fabre said his office did not issue a permit for the cutting or sawing of the tree, eliciting suspicion that a Cenro employee or employees connived with the owner of the tree.

He said two of his personnel assigned in the area would face investigation.

Puerto Princesa to vote on urbanized city move

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—RESIDENTS will decide in a plebiscite on July 9 if they want Puerto Princesa to be upgraded from its current classification as a component city to a highly urbanized city (HUC).

As a component city, Puerto Princesa is under the administrative supervision of Palawan. An HUC category will make it independent from the province, and city-registered voters will no longer elect provincial officials.

City officials have stepped up their campaign to ratify, through the plebiscite, a recent presidential proclamation upgrading their place into an HUC. Information materials encouraging voters to cast "yes" ballots are being circulated in village centers and schools, and aired by media outlets.

Ratification will make Puerto Princesa the 30th HUC in the country, following the recent cityhood of Navotas in Metro Manila.

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn allayed fears raised by the business community of rising business taxes once the measure was ratified.

No bigger taxes

"It is simply not true. We are not converting the city just to increase taxes and to impose economic burden on our people," Hagedorn told members of the Palawan Chamber of Commerce and other private sector groups on Thursday.

"This is a necessity because we need broader authority to provide basic services to our increasing population," he said. "We have qualified for conversion because our population has exceeded 200,000 and our annual income has been over P50 million."

Floresita P. Flores, former secretary general of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, clarified that based on the Local Government Code, a change in city status would, in fact, entail a prohibition on the increase of local taxes for five years.

"After five years, the highly urbanized city can increase local taxes but by not more than 10 percent," Flores said.

Hagedorn explained that Puerto Princesa's conversion from a component city was provided by the Local Government Code. Under the law, component cities that have qualified for conversion on the basis of population and annual income may ask the President to issue a conversion proclamation which will be ratified by the population to take effect.

On March 26, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1264, which upgrades Puerto Princesa into a an HUC. The proclamation is required by law to go through a plebiscite within 120 days upon signing.

MOORED
HAZEL VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS
Boats are moored near the shore of a village in the Sagay Marine Reserve in Sagay City. The place could be the next Boracay for tourists.

Killings in N. Ecija return; 3 shot dead

QUEZON, NUEVA ECIJA—THREE people were killed, one of them a local village chair, when a group of armed men shot them in Barangay Dos here on Saturday night.

Police said the killing of Barangay Dos Chair Miguel Sta. Ana, former provincial jail guard Victor Ramos and Florencio Alberto Jr. happened a day after an elementary school principal was shot dead while on his way to work in another village here.

Senior Insp. Eduardo Pajarillo, police chief here, said Sta. Ana, 46; Ramos, 47; and Alberto, 36, were drinking in front of a store in the village when the suspects, who were aboard a van, arrived and shot them at about 10 p.m. Saturday.

Pajarillo said Ramos and Alberto died instantly while Sta. Ana died while being taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City, some 34 km from here.

A barangay council member, Sisenando Coloma, 51, was wounded in the attack.

Pajarillo said residents told policemen that the suspects fired their M-16 Armalite rifles as they drove to Aliaga town.

Tomas Lajom, a former provincial board secretary and a lawyer of former Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson, believed that politics was behind the attack here, the hometown of the Joson family.

Lajom, a resident here, said Sta. Ana was a leader of the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane), a political party founded by the Josons and chaired by Mariano Cristino.

Mariano Cristino, also a former Quezon mayor, lost to Rep. Aurelio Umali in the gubernatorial contest on May 14.

His brother, former Gov. Tomas Joson III, lost in the mayoral race in Cabanatuan City while Mariano Cristino's son, Eduardo Basilio, was reelected mayor here.

On Friday, Fortunato Malubag, 58, principal of San Andres Uno Elementary School here, was driving his motorcycle when two men aboard another motorcycle shot him at about 9 a.m.

In Isabela, separate explosions hit the house of Gamu Mayor Fernando Cumigad and a cockpit arena that the mayor and his friends were managing in the town between 12 and 12:15 a.m. Saturday.

Police said no one was reported hurt in the incidents but the blast damaged two cars and sections of the mayor's house in Barangay District 2 and of the cockpit arena in Barangay Upi.

Chief Insp. Nestor Agcaoili, Gamu police chief, said Cumigad was in Metro Manila when the attack happened. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon, with reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Bid to divide Quezon seen to split officials

LUCENA CITY—NEWLY SWORN in officials of the province are bracing for a heated debate over proposed legislation that would divide Quezon province into two.

"God save our province should the proposal to divide Quezon be passed into law. We can't afford to delve into a divisive agenda at this point of the province, whose leap to progress and development is now ongoing," newly elected Vice Gov. Carlos Portes told newsmen.

Portes, former senior provincial board member, argued that when the proposal to divide Quezon province was first filed during the 11th Congress, the situation then was much different compared to the present.

"The province is much better now in terms of progress and development," he said.

According to Portes, the four districts of the province have already been experiencing tremendous economical growth and advancement.

"Look at Bondoc Peninsula. With the concrete highway traversing every corner of the area, the argument of the bill proponents that the place is hard to reach from the seat of the provincial government is no longer valid," Portes said.

He said a multisectoral group, which he declined to identify, is preparing to wage a province-wide information and educational campaign to urge the people of the province to reject the legislation should it be brought to a plebiscite.

No consultation

"There were no honest public consultations before. We intend to conduct one in every municipality to be attended by multisectoral representatives," Portes said.

The vice governor added that dividing the province into two separate units is not an important requirement to propel its economic engine. "Look at the situations of other provinces that had been divided into two. Most of them are still mired in poverty."

The proposed legislation was filed by then Quezon Representatives Wigberto Tañada and Rafael Nantes in late 1990s.

Nantes is the newly elected governor of the province.

Nantes had pointed out that Quezon was now the only province in the country having 40 municipalities and one city under its jurisdiction, which, he said, had resulted in the underdevelopment of towns in far-flung areas.

According to Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III, Wigberto's son, the proposed legislation had already been passed by the Senate and was only awaiting the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo for it to become a law.

Delay

However, he admitted that it would still take a couple of years before it could be implemented.

He was optimistic that the plebiscite could be coincided with the holding of the 2010 election to save on funds.

Quezon, an elongated province measuring 862,676 hectares and located east of Metro Manila and the downward chain of Luzon provinces, is the country's sixth largest province.

The province plays a vital role as the new axis of growth in the fastest developing economy of Calabarzon region.

Under the proposed division, the first and second districts of the province will be known as Quezon del Norte.

It will be composed of Lucena City and the following municipalities: Burdeos, Gen. Nakar, Infanta, Jomalig, Lukban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Patnanungan, Polillo, Real, Sampaloc, Tayabas, Candelaria, Dolores, San Antonio, Sariaya, Tiaong.

Lucena City will remain as the capital.

Quezon del Sur

Quezon del Sur will be composed of the following towns from the third and fourth districts of the province: Agdangan, Buenavista, Catanauan, General Luna, Macalelon, Mulanay, Padre Burgos, Pitogo, San Andres, San Francisco, San Narciso, Unisan, Alabat, Atimonan, Calauag, Guinyangan, Gumaca, Lopez, Perez, Plaridel, Quezon, and Tagkawayan. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Marina strips vessel of certificate after stranding

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE MARITIME INdustry Authority (Marina) has suspended the safety certificate of a vessel that was stranded off the island-province of Siquijor.

The MV Princess of the Ocean, which is owned by Sulpicio Lines Inc., could not ply its route until after it underwent a thorough inspection.

The vessel, which was bound for Cebu City from Cagayan de Oro City, was stranded 4.5 nautical miles northeast off Siquijor when its main generator shut down.

Maritime safety engineer Mardon Martin of Marina-7 said a team of inspectors from the Marina enforcement office in Manila was expected last Saturday to inspect the vessel.

Martin said the team would check all aspects of the seaworthiness of the vessel before the office lifts the suspension of its safety certificate.

Chief Petty Officer Roberto Muela, assistant station commander of Coast Guard Cebu, said the main generator, which supplies power to the vessels' three auxiliary engines, suffered a mechanical failure, which eventually led to a malfunction and stalled the vessel.

Muela said all the 251 passengers were safe.

The vessel left Cagayan de Oro City past 8 p.m. Thursday and was scheduled to dock at 5 a.m. Friday at the Cebu International Port.

The Cebu Coast Guard received the information about the stranding of MV Princess at about 7 a.m. Friday, Muela added.

Capt. Nestor Ponteres, port captain of Sulpicio Lines, said all three generators incurred problems upon reaching the waters off Siquijor.

New cities face legal challenge in courts

BAGUIO CITY—CAN THE COUNtry's new cities survive a legal challenge to their new status that has been posed by the League of Cities of the Philippines?

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the LCP has engaged a law firm that would seek a court injunction to stop the plebiscites scheduled to ratify the laws that created new cities in the country.

Residents of Tabuk in Kalinga, Borongan in Eastern Samar, Lamitan in Basilan, Mati in Davao Oriental, Tandag in Surigao del Sur and Batac in Ilocos Norte ratified the cityhood laws in plebiscites held in June.

The LCP had tried to get President Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the cityhood initiatives of at least 19 towns as early as February because the Senate waived some of the requirements that these towns must first satisfy before they were officially recognized as cities, Bautista said.

"If not for the Senate waiver, many of these new cities, like Batac, would not pass the requirements," he told reporters here on Monday.

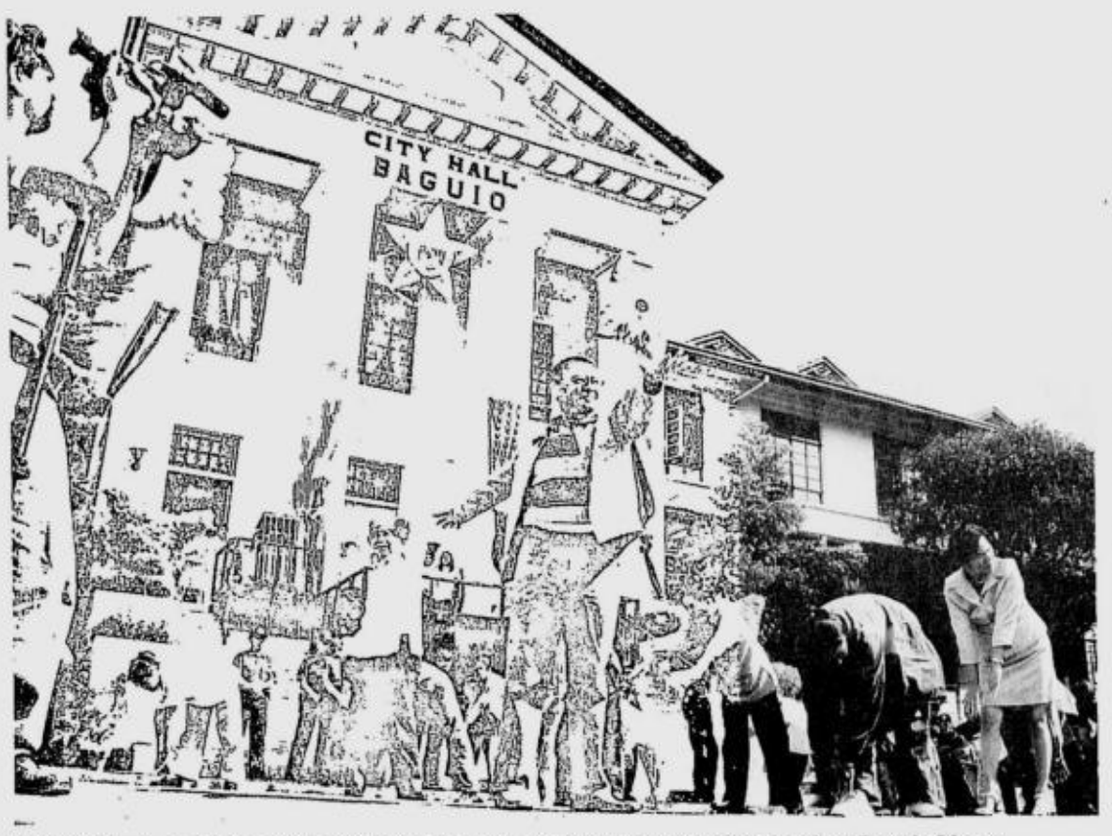
Exception

He said the only city the league will not challenge is San Juan in Metro Manila, "because they really deserve [the new status]."

Bautista, who attended several orientation conferences conducted by the LCP for first-time mayors, said Ms Arroyo did not veto the initiatives because it was passed before the May 14 elections.

But Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. of the City of Tabuk said the battle has been won.

"The ratification is our legal protection, so [efforts by the league to reverse the cityhood status] is already academic. So what is the fuss all about?" Lammawin told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.



NEWLY elected officials of Baguio City celebrate their first day in office dancing. Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and all 12 new councilors were compelled to join a morning dance exercise after launching a nutrition month.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

He said the June 23 plebiscite in Tabuk already perfected the law and could no longer be reversed.

According to a tally provided by the Commission on Elections, 17,060 residents favored Republic Act No. 9404, which converted the first-class town of Tabuk into a city.

The new city has 44,128 registered voters, and 2,333 of them rejected the law.

Confirmation

Lammawin said all Tabuk is waiting for is the official confirmation to be issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

> 'The ratification is... already academic. So what is the fuss all about?'

Batac Mayor Jeffrey Nalupta said the LCP's move was a rehash of an earlier petition that the group had aired to block towns from obtaining their rightful position as cities.

Nalupta said Batac, just as other newly created cities, met all the requirements that the law had provided.

"We will deal with the new petition through our lawyers," he said.

Nalupta said the cityhood bill of Batac was filed in 1998 when its annual income was P29 million or way above the income requirement then of P20 million.

In 2001, however, the income requirement was amended requiring towns wanting to become a city to reach an income of P100 million.

Nalupta said the law provided that the amount of P100 million should be derived from locally generated funds.

"The bills were pending for a long time because they were overtaken by the amendments set by Congress," Nalupta said.

Amendments

He said the Senate then made another amendment that the P100 million income requirement should be derived not only from local sources but would include the internal revenue allotment share of towns.

Nalupta said Batac later met the requirement after it reached an income of more than P100 million since 2006. The income was generated from both local sources and its IRA share.

Batac's cityhood was ratified on June 23 when residents endorsed its conversion with 11,750 votes out of 25,642 registered voters. Only 1,433 residents rejected Batac's conversion to a city.

Bautista said the new cities would have an impact on how the internal revenue allotments (IRA), currently being shared by 118 cities, would be divided.

Cities receive 23 percent of a province's mandatory IRA share of 40 percent, according to the Local Government Code of 1991. Congress had tried but failed to raise the IRA of local governments to 60 percent as a consequence of devolution.

"The LCP is being selfish. They do not want to share the development with the rural areas. What they are doing is a manifestation of selfishness. It's like they are saying we are not qualified to become a city," Lammawin said. *Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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NEWS

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In NYC, RP youth blog on ocean crisis

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MASBATE CITY—FOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUdents here represented the country in the first youth-to-youth online global forum on the planet's ocean crisis, which was highlighted at the United Nations Plaza in New York City on June 5 on the observance of World Environment Day.

The Philippine bloggers at the "Fishes Feed Us" forum were Ralph Cedie Fabon, 13; Kristine Yentyl Esber, 14; Soccii Nenotchka Tuason, 15, and Philip Joseph Alarcon, 15. All are students at the Masbate National Comprehensive High School and leaders of the I Love the Ocean Movement initiated by the Coastal Resource Management and Interpretive Center (CRMIC).

They joined the exchange of ideas along with youths from India, Malaysia and the United States on the global fish crisis.

The blog entries of Alarcon and Esber were also chosen as monologues that were presented at the UN Plaza event.

The "Fishes Feed Us" blog (www.oneocean.org/fishblog) is a project of the Arts and Science Collaborations Inc., a nongovernment organization based in New York City devoted to "exploring the intersections of arts and science."

The online youth dialogue hoped to put a human face on the destruction of the marine ecosystem and encourage young people to become ocean stewards.

Esber, a third year student, said they had immersed themselves in the community to prepare for the online dialogue.

"We exposed ourselves to the communities in the province that rely mainly on fishing as a means of livelihood, and we talked with the fishermen's children," she said.

Esber said this gave her a good overview of how the children think their families benefit from Masbate's rich marine resources.

Tuason, also a third year high school student, learned from her interviews that much has improved in terms of preserving the ocean corals, the habitat of fish, since this city implemented its coastal resource management program in February 2000. She learned there had been zero dynamite-fishing rate in the city in the past years.

She reported that there were already two marine sanctuaries in the city—the Buntod and Bugsayon reefs.

"HOW WOULD a fish feel?" was one of the topics four Masbate youngsters blogged about in the online global forum on the ocean crisis at the UN in New York City. HAZEL VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Seas at risk

Asked to imagine themselves in the fish's place, the participants were asked: "What is happening to our homes—where we live, find food, have babies?"

"I found myself swimming and living not in a sea anymore but in a canal of garbage, trash and toxic materials. It's so suffocating, so weakening, and as I tried to strive for life, I already prepared myself for the death that was just right behind me," Alarcon stated in one of his entries that earned comments from the foreign participants.

He told the INQUIRER that, while the seas were clean outside of Masbate's urban centers, the government had to do something about the garbage polluting the waters near the city market site.

Added Fabon: "The mangroves that are supposed to grow abundantly strain the wastes from getting into the sea to pollute the habitat of marine creatures. They must be preserved."

What was needed, said Alarcon, was discipline and the willingness of people to change the situation.

Esber said taking care of the earth is a human responsibility, adding that if she were a fish, she would ask, "I serve as food for them (the people), but why do they destroy my habitat and kill me unjustly?"

Award-winning efforts

Masbate City's coastal resource management effort was one of the recipients of this year's Saringaya Awards, given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to individuals and entities in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development of natural resources.

The CRMIC, established in 2003, also received two prestigious Anvil Awards in 2005: The Anvil Award of Excellence for Institutional and Corporate Programs in the category of public affairs management and communications in environmental protection, and the Anvil Award of Merit for public relations.

Agriculturist Esperanza Danao, CRMIC coordinator-designate, said the CMRIC's massive youth-targeted campaign on ocean protection is the first of its kind in the country.

An expanding crusade

"We coordinate with different campuses and invite students on ecotours. In day-care centers, we conduct storytelling sessions and show films to children. For us, this is the fastest way to massively disseminate information on environment preservation," Danao said.

The CRMIC has involved the communities in coastal cleanups and has deputized fish wardens and junior fish wardens, who are trained in integrated coastal management.

Some of the fish wardens are former illegal fishers redeemed to become instruments of environment protection.

Other towns in Masbate like Batuan, San Jacinto and Aroroy have started to adopt their own coastal resource management programs.

Batuan, a fifth-class municipality at the southern end of Ticao Island, is home to the 168-hectare Bongsanglay Mangrove Forest Reserve. Here can be found a 125-year-old piapi, said to be the largest mangrove tree in the region.

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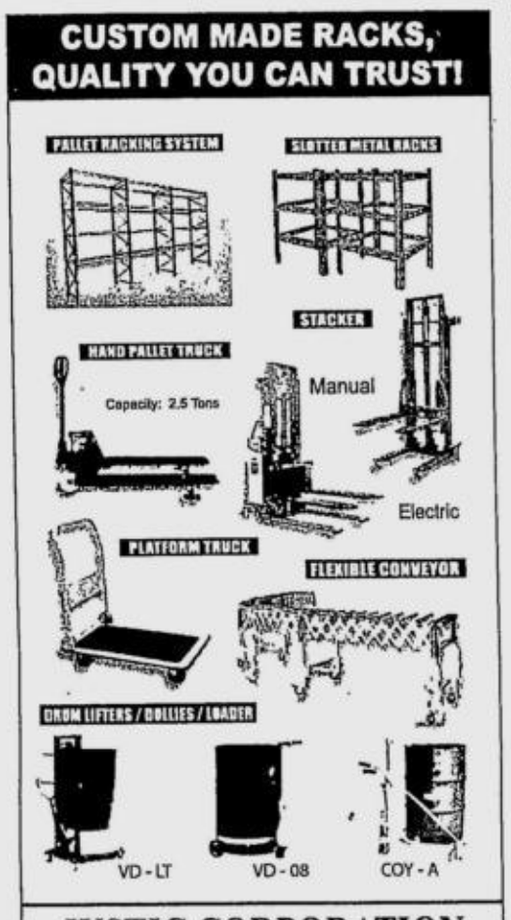

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WHO: Church can promote breast-feeding

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE PHILIPpines can play an important role in convincing mothers to return to breast-feeding instead of giving their babies milk substitutes, according to the World Health Organization.

"The Church, through its priests and ministers can inform their congregations that breast-feeding is the most effective intervention to promote the healthy development of children," said Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO director for the West Pacific.

Omi, in an interview with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines news service, said the Church was "very influential" in the country and could help WHO's breast-feeding advocacy.

The Church, he said, could use every opportunity to inform the faithful that breast-feeding is "very, very effective for the healthy development of a baby not only biologically but mentally (because) you develop a bond between mother and child."

WHO and other local and international health organizations have been pushing for a return to breast-feeding, which has lost in popularity to the aggressive promotion of formula and other milk substitutes.

Both WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) recommend six months of exclusive breast-feeding for best infant growth, development and health.

Most Filipino mothers, however, breast-feed their babies for less than 24 days on the average, according to the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey which showed a significant reduction from the 1.4 months noted in the 1998 survey.

It has been reported that 16,000 children die in the Philippines every year due largely to inappropriate feeding.

Unicef said a formula-fed infant is 14.2 times more likely to die of diarrhea than a breast-fed one.

Unicef said that because of limited milk production in the Philippines, the country relies on milk imports to provide breast milk substitutes.

Jerome Aning

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Brawl mars reelected mayor's return

Cainta protesters rail against alleged vote manipulation

ILAGAN

By Kristine L. Alave

EIGHTEEN SUPPORTERS OF FORmer Cainta Mayor Ben Felix were arrested yesterday morning when a rally turned into a violent brawl between protesters and policemen.

Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, Rizal provincial police director, said three of those arrested were relatives of the defeated mayoral candidate, who, along with about 150 supporters, held a march and demonstration in front of the Cainta Municipal Hall.

The Felix camp earlier accused the winner in the mayoral race, reelectionist Mayor Ramon Ilagan, of manipulating votes in the May 14 elections.

According to reports, the demonstrators gathered at about 5 a.m. in Liwasang Bayan for their march. When they got to the municipal hall, the police told them they could stay in the area for only 15 minutes as they did not have a rally permit. At about 9:30 a.m., the rally turned violent as protesters threw rocks at the police who started dispersing them, Cainta police chief Supt. Joel Garcia said.

The demonstrators also prevented some government employees from going inside the municipal hall, he added.

Three policeman, a fireman, and a media personnel identified as Oscar de Leon were injured in the melee. The windows of the town's fire trucks were also damaged, Garcia said.

Operations inside and outside the city hall went back to normal at around 11 a.m.

In a press briefing, Panen presented and identified the arrested persons as Lincoln Felix, Felix's grandson; Jojette Morales, cousin of Felix's son, Nicanor, and Benedict Bautista, Nicanor's brother-in-law. Like his father, Nicanor was also a town mayor.

The others who were arrested were Arvain Cabrales, Cesar Camacho, Erwin Picardla, JR Salvador, Maritess Cruz, Romeo Diaz, Michael Cruz, Simeon Cayosa, Jeffrey Ambrosio, Julian Javier, Benjamin Marcelo, Jonathan Javier, Eduardo del Mundo, Lamerto Cruz and Eric Demedio.

All denied that they threw rocks at the police. The Felix brood said they even helped the police calm down the ralliers and protested Panen's move to handcuff them and to present them to the media.

Panen said the police and the city government would file charges against the suspects for illegal assembly, direct assault, malicious mischief, alarm and scandal, resisting arrest and multiple physical injuries.

Ilagan said he would pursue legal actions against the arrested protesters, noting that the incident was "unfortunate" as Lincoln Felix was a former Sangguniang Kabataan chair in Barangay San Juan.

ROCKS, pieces of glass and other debris litter the ground after a clash between supporters of former Mayor Ben Felix and policemen in front of the Cainta municipal hall yesterday. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Mandaluyong school gutter gives way

By Kristine L. Alave

MANDALUYONG MAYOR BENHUR ABALOS yesterday ordered an inspection of the city's public schools after the concrete gutter of a school for elementary and high school students collapsed last Saturday.

Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident since there were no classes that day.

School officials of the four-story Andres Bonifacio Integrated School (ABIS) in Welfareville Compound, Addition Hills said a portion of the concrete gutter on the top floor gave way at about 4 p.m., raining debris on the basketball court below.

The school has at least 6,400 elementary and high school students.

On his first official day as city mayor, Abalos, a former congressman, ordered an investigation of the incident. He also suspended classes at the school to allow city engineers to inspect the building's structure, particularly the upper drainage system.

"Yung mga concrete drainage, malalaki po yung ginawa. So kung paligid po ng building ang magbabagsakan, baka may tamaan (The concrete drainage are huge so if the rest give way, someone might get hurt)," Abalos said.

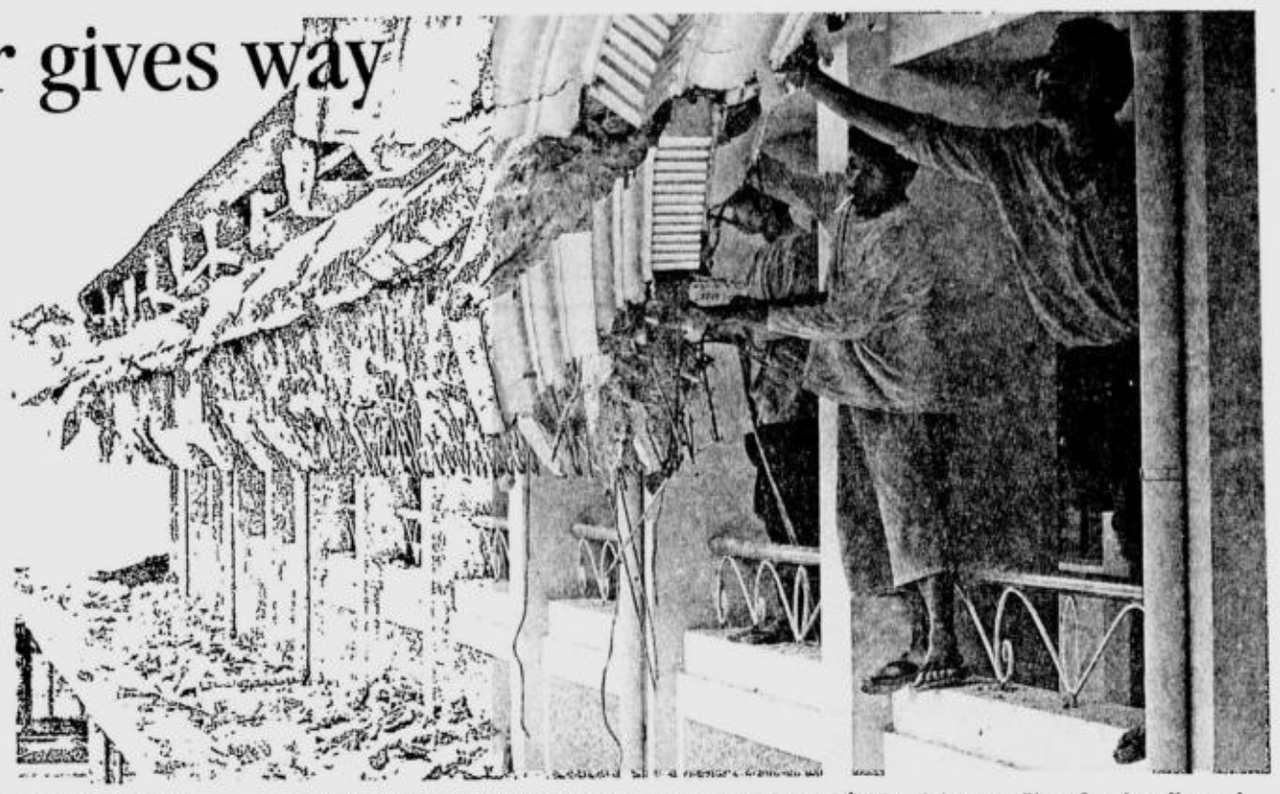
He urged principals of other public schools to assess the safety of their buildings and to check their school's electrical system to prevent accidents.

With the collapse of the gutter at ABIS, some 2,000 students using 15 classrooms would be affected, Abalos said. The school, he added, would have to hold classes in two shifts to accommodate the displaced students. There was no mention on when classes would resume.

Juanita Valle, the school principal, urged the mayor to speed up the repair work. She noted that they would to check if any of the nearby schools have classrooms to spare.

In a radio interview, school building officer Joel Magalay said they did not expect the gutter to collapse since it was relatively new. He added that it was fortunate that the incident occurred on a weekend.

Construction of the school was carried out by the Department of Public Works and Highways in 2001 for P100 million. Abalos said he would ask the DPWH to make an assessment of the damages and the safety of the structure.



WORKERS fix the concrete gutter of the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School in Mandaluyong City after it collapsed on Saturday. Classes were cancelled yesterday as a result of the incident. ERIK ARAZAS

7 prisoners escape from Caloocan police station cell

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SEVEN PRISONERS DETAINED for various offenses escaped at dawn yesterday from the cell of a police sub-station in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Caloocan police chief, Supt. William Macavinta, identified the escapees as James Alvarez, Panfilo Cabanglan and Dennis Indam, who are facing robbery cases; Ricardo Moncada and Porfirio Reyes Jr., both charged with theft; and Jonathan Bencan and Bryan Morales, who are accused of attempted homicide. They were all detained at the Caloocan City police sub-station 4.

"We have their complete files and photos. I am confident we can apprehend them," Macavinta said.

He added that his men were looking for the escaped prisoners in their last known addresses and and possible safe houses.

According to Macavinta, the suspects escaped by sawing off the iron bars of the detention cell one by one.

At the time of the escape, he added, the duty officer was suffering from a bum stomach.

Every time the duty police officer would go to the toilet, the prisoners would saw off one of the iron bars until they made a hole big enough for them to crawl through.

Following the incident, Macavinta ordered the relief of Supt. Mario Dapillosa, the sub-station commander, "for command responsibility."

He was replaced by Supt. Florindo Quebuyen.

Macavinta also immediately ordered the suspension and investigation of the duty officer, PO3 Espero Quirado.

The police chief said there were five policemen on duty at the time the escape occurred, which was around 3:45 a.m., but none of them noticed anything unusual.

Four other detainees, who were in the same cell, did not join the escapees, Macavinta said.

"The others are due to leave jail soon so they were afraid that they would face additional charges if they escape," he explained.

Makati tries harder, being No. 1—Binay

By DJ Yap

MAKATI CITY, THE COUNTRY'S financial capital, is feeling the heat of competition from neighboring cities, as the landscape in the metropolis grows more and more urbanized.

Now that all but one of Metro Manila's 17 municipalities have been converted into cities, Makati, long considered the premier district for commerce, is bent on retaining its status as the top business location, Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

"Basically, I see it as a part of a healthy competition among the cities. Already, we've seen the growth of cities like Pasig, Mandaluyong and Taguig," Binay added.

In his inaugural address at City Hall, he cited the "urgency to put the final touches in our grand plan to ensure that Makati remains at the center of the country's economic life."

"Our new challenge is to set the foundations to ensure that our city remains the preferred home of the country's top enterprises and businesses," Binay told an audience composed of city officials, businessmen and diplomats.

In an interview later, the mayor said Makati should continue to upgrade and improve its services. "We can't just rest on our laurels," he stressed.

In Metro Manila, only Pateros remains a town, after San Juan and Navotas became cities last month upon after holding plebiscites.

Public affairs chief Joey Salgado said the city always looked at others as potential competitors.

"Our philosophy is always to be one step ahead of everyone else," he said.

DID YOU KNOW

ON JULY 3, 1892, Jose Rizal founded the La Liga Filipina in a house in Tondo, Manila. The group aimed to unite the Philippine archipelago, provide defense against violence and injustice, and study and apply reforms. It later financed the publication of La Solidaridad in Spain. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Motor bikers to protest new policy on helmets

By Julie M. Aurelio

AROUND 7,000 TO 10,000 MOtorcycle riders have threatened to stage a protest on Edsa if a resolution requiring them to display the license plate of their vehicles on their helmets will be implemented.

Atoy Sta. Cruz, an official of the Motorcycle Philippines Federation (MPF), said the move means authorities are passing on to law-abiding motorcycle riders the burden of identifying "criminals on wheels."

"Not all motorcycle riders are criminals. Will the real criminals be scared because the other riders have a sticker on their helmets?" Sta. Cruz said.

The MPF, according to its web site, is an umbrella group composed of leading motorcycle organizations in the country, motorcycle clubs and federations. It has around 130,000 members.

Sta. Cruz pointed out the plan of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to require motorcycle riders to display their license plate on their helmets will not stop criminals from using motorcycles to carry out their operations.

"I already asked MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to study the plan carefully. We will be the only country in the world with plate numbers on our helmets," he said.

Dubbed the Dual Motorcycle and Helmet License Plate Numbers Policy, motorcycle riders will be required to place their license plate numbers on both sides of a helmet, in letters large enough to be seen from a distance of 25 meters.

The proposal was contained in a resolution recently approved by the Metro Manila Council, which is composed of mayors in the metropolis and chaired by Fernando as head of the MMDA.

The MMDA approved the resolution to help the Philippine National Police stop the commission of crimes carried out by motorcycle-riding suspects. The proposal is set to be implemented by the end of the month.

"We are holding back our protest for three days more as part of our agreement with the MMDA," Sta. Cruz said during a rally held in Parañaque City Sunday afternoon. He said the riders will "ride very slowly" on Edsa.

Sta. Cruz also complained that three of their members were apprehended for allegedly violating the new MMDA policy.

"Instead of forcing us to place stickers on our helmets, the police should start responding faster to distress calls," he said.

METROBRIEFS

Guard shot dead, 2 wounded in robbery

A WATCHMAN was shot dead while two employees of bus firms were wounded after robbers seized the P200,000 they were about to deposit in a nearby branch of Metrobank at the busy corner of Taft and Gil Puyat Avenues in Pasay City yesterday. Remmie Tubansa of RSGS Security Agency died of a gunshot wound in the head during the incident. Mike Christian Abraham and Cecil Lomesero, cashiers of nearby bus firms Star Express Transit and Green Star Transit, respectively, were taken to the hospital after they were also shot. Police said Tubansa was escorting the two cashiers on Taft Avenue on their way to deposit about P200,000 of their companies' money at the bank when two men on board a motorcycle fired on them and grabbed the money they were carrying. *Julie M. Aurelio*

Lim promises P500 monthly bonus for cops

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday announced a P500 monthly bonus for the city's policemen. The mayor said the bonus would benefit the Manila Police District's uniformed and nonuniformed personnel. In addition, policemen will get a P2,000 monthly allowance. "They will now receive P2,500, that's a big help for their families," said MPD acting chief, Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa. Lim also vowed to cleanse the ranks of the MPD of scalawags in uniform, saying he would personally go after erring cops. He added that he would rid the city of crime and graft and corruption within the next six months, as well as drug and prostitution dens. "Those who will violate the rule of law must leave the city. *Mag-impake na kayo* (Pack up your things)," he warned. *Tina G. Santos*

Brothers suffocate inside deep well

TWO BROTHERS died as they were cleaning a 74-foot deep well in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City on Sunday afternoon. Jennelito and Jaime Espinosa went down into the well at around 4:30 p.m. but when they failed to surface hours later, a relative also went into the well to check on them. He surfaced a few minutes later because he found it hard to breathe, the police said. The Espinosas' bodies were brought up at around 7 p.m. by a rescue team. Initial findings showed that the brothers could have died of lack of oxygen, but Mayor Recom Echiverri ordered the city environment and sanitation department to look into the incident. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Fish vendor arrested by cops missing

THE FAMILY of fish vendor Alex Salino, 21, expressed concern that he could have been summarily executed after he was accused of picking the pocket of a photographer last Saturday. Salino's mother, Susan, yesterday sought the help of reporters at the Manila Police District, saying her son has not come home since he left Saturday morning. Susan claimed she saw Alex's picture in a tabloid and identified as the man who robbed a photojournalist who was covering Mayor Alfredo Lim's oath-taking in Bonifacio Shrine near Manila City Hall. She said she has gone to different police stations in Manila to look for the missing man. "But I still didn't find him. I believe he was salvaged," she added. *Tina G. Santos*

Noli Me Tangere art exhibit extended

EXECUTIVE Director Ludovico Badoy of the National Historical Institute announced that the ongoing art exhibit, "Jose Rizal's Noli Me Tangere—Oil Paintings by Leonardo" at the Rizal Shrine in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, has been extended up to July 7. The NHI, in collaboration with painter Leonardo Cruz, is extending the exhibit in response to requests from the public, including teachers and parents of elementary and high school students, who want to view the paintings. The exhibit features 28 oil paintings of characters and scenes from the Noli, and a portrait of Rizal, all created by Cruz, whose previous paintings celebrate the country's rich cultural heritage of myths, legends, folk dances and folk tales.

Belmonte blames NHA for 'blocking' progress

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNment is ready to invest P500 million to jump start development in its Central Business District area.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. announced this yesterday, saying he has already informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about his plan.

However, Belmonte said the National Housing Authority has been impeding the city government's plan to speed up development in the area.

"The NHA has been pointing out that they own majority of the land in the proposed CBD area, and they apparently want to lead in the development," Belmonte said, adding that his chairmanship of the Urban Triangle Development Commission (UTDC) was also being questioned.

"They (NHA) supervised that area for 50 years and nothing has happened so far," Belmonte added.

Under Executive Order 620, Ms Arroyo called for the creation of the commission that would be tasked to review, integrate and streamline programs, and study allocation schemes, land use and other property management arrangements affecting the area.

The newly formed commission will have a representative from the Office of the City Mayor who will sit as chair; the NHA general manager as vice chair and a representative from the Office of the President.

City Engineer Joselito Cabungcal had said in an earlier interview that the 250-ha land at the city's North and East Triangles would be developed just like Eastwood and Fort Bonifacio, "but a lot grander in scale."

Regina Samson, head of the city government's Communications Coordination Center, said the CBD would be a "city in itself," complete with residential, commercial, medical and information technology components.

She added that the area would be divided into five districts: The Downtown Hub, the Emporium, the Triangle Exchange, the Residences at Veterans and the Commons.

THE TRIANGLE Exchange in Quezon City's Central Business District will have high-rise commercial and residential buildings. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A succession of booboos

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I USED TO HOLD JUSTICE SECretary Raul Gonzalez in high esteem. I admired his loyalty and brilliance in defending his boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lately, however, my admiration has turned to disgust. Gonzalez is on the wrong side of the fence in my book.

He got a suspected big drug trafficker off the hook.

Gonzalez allegedly sided with a Saudi Arabian in a domestic quarrel with his Filipino wife over custody of their children.

It seems that some people in his inner circle hold sway over the justice secretary.

My sources at the Department of Justice say a certain Maranaw who used to be his close-in security aide reportedly had a hand in the dismissal of drug trafficking cases against Amin Boratong, a fellow Maranaw.

Boratong allegedly ran the shabu *tiangge* (flea market) in Pasig that was raided by the police early last year.

This former bodyguard of Gonzalez, according to my DOJ sources, brought along Mimi Buratong, wife of the suspected drug trafficker, and she herself is charged, like her husband, with drug trafficking.

My DOJ sources warned me about this alleged mediator and advisers within Gonzalez's inner circle.

They said I was unduly exposing myself to danger by writing about the alleged Maranaw syndicate at the DOJ.

You see, some of Gonzalez's close advisers are Maranaws.

The same syndicate was allegedly responsible for the filing of a criminal complaint against beauty queen Sabrina Artadi in a quarrel with her husband Fouzi Bondagji.

Artadi, a former beauty queen, has been charged with several criminal cases for having her two children by Bondagji baptized Catholic and given Filipino names.

My sources said Gonzalez has been sickly lately and signs papers handed to him without reading them.

To his credit, Gonzalez is clean, according to my sources.

He has not received any monetary considerations for the recent booboos.

A former fan's (that's me) unsolicited advice to Gonzalez is for him to retire to save the DOJ from further embarrassment.

* * *

Another Cabinet member who should be given his marching orders is Sergio Apostol, presidential legal adviser.

Apostol, is already an octogenarian who has been experiencing difficulties associated with aging, according to his colleagues in Malacañang.

It will be recalled that Apostol provided comic relief because of his Visayan accent at the impeachment proceedings of President Erap conducted at the House of Representatives.

He elicited laughter from television viewers when he frequently addressed a female witness as "Madame Wetness."

Afghans say 45 bodies of air strike victims found

GIRISHK, AFGHANISTAN—VILlage elders said Sunday they had recovered the bodies of 45 civilians, mostly women and children, killed in foreign air strikes as Afghan President Hamid Karzai ordered an investigation.

Nato's force, under fire over the number of civilian casualties, said however it believed fewer than a dozen villagers and a "significant number" of Taliban were killed in Friday's bombardment in southern Helmand province.

With tensions high, Taliban fighters attacked troops from the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) in the same area, Girishk district, killing a British soldier and wounding four others, the defense ministry in London said.

Sunday's attack was followed by a suspected suicide bomb, Isaf said. Witnesses said a military vehicle was set ablaze. Three Afghan passers-by were also hurt, the government said.

Helmand province is among the most volatile areas of Afghanistan, with extremist Taliban militants said to be teamed up with foreign "jihadists" and illegal opium traders.

Friday's air strikes by Isaf and the separate US-led coalition were called in after troops trying to clear the Helmand River of Taliban fighters came under heavy attack, military forces have said.

The strikes had targeted positions from which the troops were being fired on, Isaf spokesperson Major John Thomas said.

"The civilians who may have died were in the same firing positions with the Taliban extremists who were firing on us," he said.

They included women and children who were found among the bodies of killed Taliban in trenches.

"At this time we believe after our survey of the situation yesterday (Saturday) when the fighting ceased that there may be less than a dozen civilians dead," he said.

But village elders said they had recovered 45 bodies, mostly women and children, Girishk district chief Dur Alisha told AFP.

Such a toll of civilian dead would be the highest since 2002, the year after the Taliban were ousted from power in an invasion led by the United States.

The elders said 23 more civilians were wounded and 62 Taliban fighters were killed, according to Alisha.

"People are digging under the rubble for more bodies. There's a possibility that more people might be under debris," Alisha said.

Karzai dispatched a team of government officials and parliamentarians to the remote area to investigate, his office said.

Just over a week ago the president accused international forces of killing civilians through an "extreme use of force" and lack of coordination with the Afghan government.

Some 380 civilians have been killed in insurgency-linked violence this year, about half in Taliban attacks and half in foreign military action, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission told AFP Sunday.

"In the recent few attacks there are more from the international forces but in general one could say they are balanced in killing," said commissioner Nader Nadery, whose group registered about 700 civilian deaths last year.

The casualties have left Afghans increasingly frustrated and have undermined the international effort to defeat the Taliban, Nadery said.

"Unless there is more coordination, unless there is immediate compensation to families affected, and proper investigations, we would not be able to win this war against the Taliban," he said.

Some have called for the foreign forces to reduce their use of air power to minimize civilian casualties.

But Isaf says it does not have enough troops to put on the ground, where they would also be at a disadvantage because they do not know the terrain.

"This is what the Taliban want to do, to stop us from using air strikes and to force us onto the ground," an official said. *AFP*

South Korea tycoon jailed for assault at karaoke bar

SEOUL—ONE OF SOUTH KOREA'S richest businessmen was jailed for 18 months on Monday for abducting karaoke bar workers, punching them and hitting them with a steel pipe.

Prosecutors said Hanwha Group chair Kim Seung-youn and several bodyguards had stormed into an upscale Seoul karaoke bar in mid-March, seeking those Kim said were responsible for attacking his son earlier that month.

Kim seized several workers, shuttled them off to a remote mountain area and forced them to their knees where he beat them, they said. The victims were also shocked with stun guns.

"I ordered my bodyguards to take over because I got tired of beating them myself," Kim said during the trial. Away from the business world, Kim is an official of a local boxing association.

Dressed in pale-blue prison fatigues, Kim showed no emotion as the verdict was pronounced on Monday. No one has been charged with the suspected assault on his son.

"The defendant took advantage of his status as chair of a conglomerate to carry out 'organized' violence for private purposes," said judge Kim Chul-hwan.

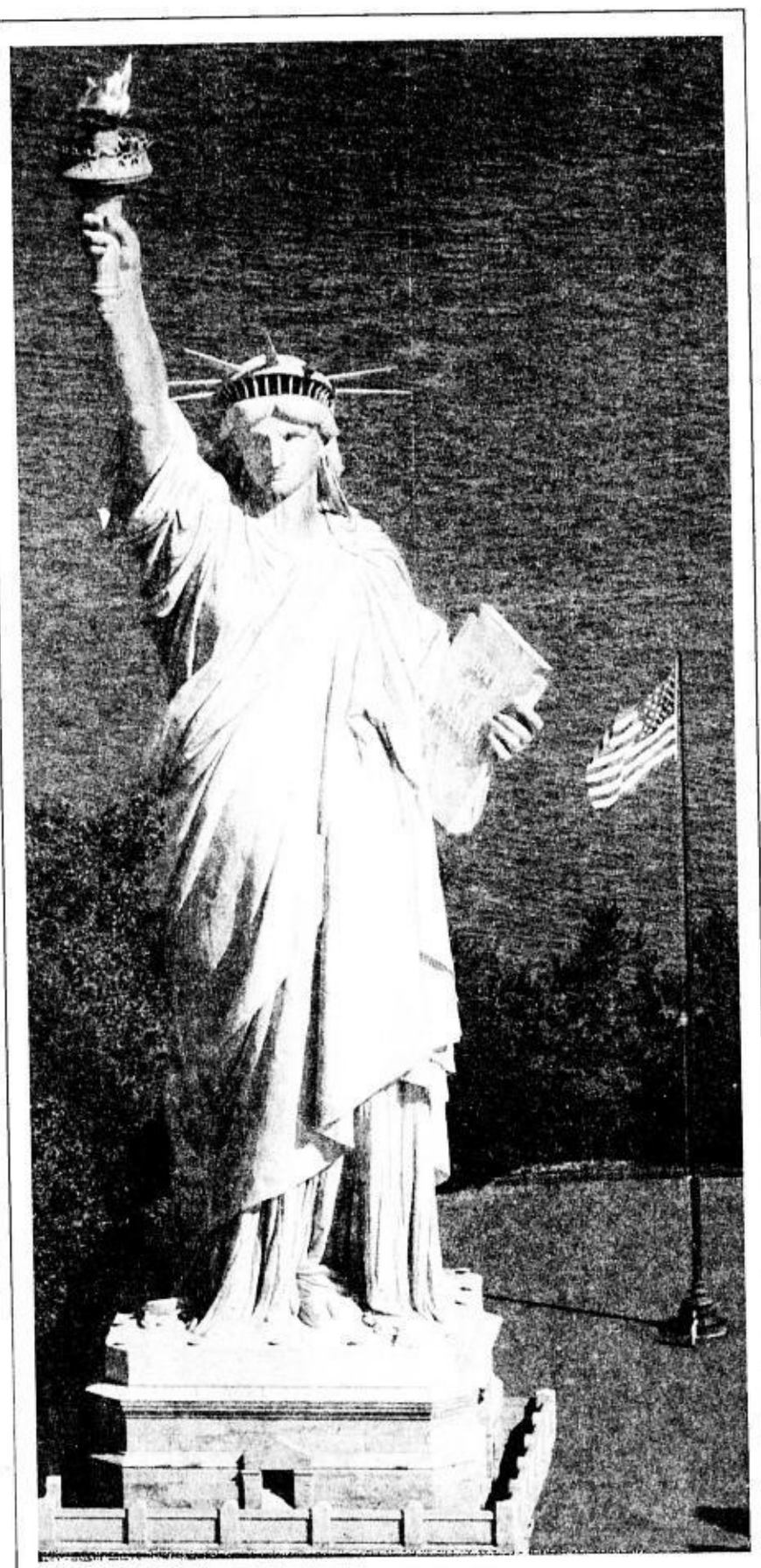
Prosecutors had sought a two-year prison sentence for the head of what local media say is South Korea's 12th largest business conglomerate. He has been in jail since May.

"We are frustrated and disappointed with the verdict," a company spokesperson said.

Over the years South Korean business leaders have stood trial for corruption, bribery and illicit financial dealings.

The violent nature of Kim's case ensured massive media coverage.

South Korean police have also seen their reputation sullied by the case. A Seoul court has issued an arrest warrant for one officer suspected of trying to cover up Kim's involvement. *Reuters*



WONDER OF THE WORLD CANDIDATE
The Statue of Liberty is seen in this aerial view on July 1 in New York. The statue is on a list of candidates for the New 7 Wonders of the World which will be revealed during a ceremony on July 7 in Lisbon. AFP

Lobster, detente on menu as Bush fetes Putin at estate

KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE—IF US PRESIdent George W. Bush hopes fresh lobster and scenic boat rides will sway Russia's Vladimir Putin, he'll find out on Monday when they try to mend relations now at a post-Cold War low.

The leaders will hold talks at the end of Putin's overnight visit to the Bush family's New England estate in a bid to find common ground on thorny issues, such as a planned US missile shield and how to deal with Iran's nuclear defiance.

Both sides advised against expecting breakthroughs.

Instead, they portray the meeting on the rugged Maine coast as a chance for Bush and Putin to revive the rapport they once enjoyed and to salvage US-Russia ties that have frayed badly as both near the final stages of their presidencies.

"I really don't think that either of them want, as part of their legacy, a trashed US-Russian relationship," said Andrew Kuchins, a Russia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Bush's invitation to his family's century-old Kennebunkport compound was seen by analysts as a sign that Washington is serious about trying to get the relationship back on track.

Townspeople have dubbed it the "lobster summit." Greeting Putin on Sunday like a long-lost family member, Bush and his father, former President George H.W. Bush, treated him to a quick tour of the area in a high-powered speedboat before sitting down for a traditional lobster dinner.

There was also talk of early-morning fishing on Monday before their informal talks and a closing news conference.

"It's pretty casual up here, as you know, unstructured," Bush told reporters while awaiting Putin's arrival.

Aides agree the relaxed setting may help the leaders narrow their differences, but it won't be enough to bridge them.

Bush famously said in 2001 he trusted Putin after looking him in the eye and gaining a "sense of his soul." Since then, ties between Washington and Moscow have deteriorated to their lowest level since the end of the Cold War.

Emboldened by Russia's energy wealth and his own popularity at home, Putin has adopted a more assertive posture on the world stage.

At the same time, he seems to sense Bush's weakness. Bush's approval ratings have slipped below 30 percent amid growing public disenchantment with the Iraq war, which Putin opposed.

US President George W. Bush (right) walks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Bush's family home in Kennebunkport, Maine, on July 1. REUTERS

The biggest dispute hanging over Monday's talks is a US plan to locate components of a missile defense system in eastern Europe, Moscow's former sphere of influence.

Saying he was unconvinced by US insistence the shield is meant to defend against "rogue states" like Iran, Putin recently threatened to retarget missiles toward Europe.

He caught Bush off guard last month with a counterproposal—joint use of Russian radar in Azerbaijan, an offer US officials have promised to study, but have cast doubt upon.

Bush will seek Putin's support for tougher UN sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program. Russia has softened previous penalties and may be reluctant to go along.

The two countries are also at odds over Kosovo. Washington backs its independence from Serbia. Moscow opposes it.

Adding to tensions has been a recent spate of harsh rhetoric, with Bush chastising Russia for backsliding on democratic reforms and Putin seeming to compare US foreign policy to that of the Third Reich.

Bush's father, not expected to participate beyond acting as host, could help sooth tensions by evoking a more constructive era in relations that followed the fall of the Soviet Union. *Reuters*

A year after defeat, Mexican leftist reduced to political artifact

By Catherine Bremer

MEXICO CITY—THE LEFTIST, who a year ago was a hair's breadth from winning Mexico's presidency, was reduced to political artifact on Sunday, drawing a fraction of his old crowds to an anniversary rally.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who insists his razor-thin defeat to Felipe Calderon in the July 2, 2006, election was rigged, has spent most of the past year crisscrossing Mexico to declare himself the "legitimate president." While Sunday's rally attracted tens of thousands of people, numbers were far fewer than the estimated 300,000 who turned out for Lopez Obrador in the run-up to the election in some of the biggest political marches ever seen in Mexico.

Ordinary Mexicans say the leftist former indigenous rights activist has dropped off the political map.

"It is not the same; there are very few people. He lost and I don't think he will be back," said Raul Coronel, 36, a street sweeper at the rally. "He should have ended this whole circus long ago," said Raymundo Aroyo, 27, a bookseller.

A poll in Mexico's Reforma Group newspapers on Sunday said 31 percent of those who voted for Lopez Obrador a year ago would not vote for him again. Almost half of those polled said Calderon's presidency had so far been better than expected.

Lopez Obrador's down-to-earth persona, austere lifestyle and populist rhetoric earned him a huge following. For months he led opinion polls and alarmed Wall Street analysts who were concerned he would threaten Mexico's economic stability.

But Calderon, a bespectacled conservative, won by 0.58 percentage point, and despite months of sit-in protests by Lopez Obrador's followers, Mexico's top electoral court eventually ruled that Calderon had won fairly.

"I say, we say again: We won the presidential election," said Lopez Obrador, who used the rally to plug his new book "La mafia nos robo la presidencia" ("The mafia stole the presidency from us").

The 2006 election was the first since conservative Vicente Fox's election win in 2000 ended 71 years of one-party rule.

It split Mexico along class lines, with Lopez Obrador painting himself as champion of the half of Mexicans who live on less than $5 a day. Many feared Calderon's slender victory would mean leftist protests could disrupt his government.

But despite only scraping into power, Calderon is enjoying sturdy popularity ratings—65 percent in a recent poll—and has impressed many with an army crackdown on drug cartels and by swiftly passing a critical pension reform. *Reuters*

US bet Obama surges ahead in fundraising

OBAMA AP

WASHINGTON—SEN. BARACK Obama raised at least $32.5 million from April through June, he announced Sunday on his campaign website, attracting more than 258,000 contributors since entering the Democratic presidential race nearly six months ago.

As candidates tabulated how much money they raised in the year's second quarter, Obama of Illinois appeared to be sitting atop contenders from either party, raising at least $31 million for the primary campaign alone. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., raised about $21 million for the primary, a spokesperson confirmed Sunday, and about $27 million overall.

"Together, we have built the largest grass-roots campaign in history for this stage of a presidential race," Obama said, adding that 154,000 new donors had signed on in the last three months. "That's the kind of movement that can change the special interest-driven politics in Washington and transform our country. And it's just the beginning."

Obama waited barely 12 hours after the fundraising period had closed to trumpet his success, a quarterly record for a Democratic candidate, hoping to highlight the widespread support of his campaign and to refute suggestions that his candidacy is falling behind Clinton's. If her estimate last week that she had raised "in the range of $27 million" proves true, Obama would have outpaced her for a second consecutive quarter in money that could be spent in primaries to win the nomination.

John Edwards' campaign said Sunday that it had raised more than $9 million, while Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico reported raising $7 million and Sen. Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut reported raising $3.25 million.

Republican candidates did not provide fundraising figures Sunday, but are expected to do so well in advance of the July 15 deadline for filing reports with the Federal Election Commission. *NYT*

LONESOME GEORGE
The giant Galapagos tortoise known as George in this Feb. 5, 2001, photo. While scientists search for a mate for "Lonesome George"—the last known survivor of a species of Galapagos tortoise—some say the effort to fend off extinction may be in vain. Even if a mate is found, George has not been interested in reproducing in the past and may not know how, former keepers said. REUTERS

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

FEAR OF NEW ATTACK

UK police nab 5, hunt more suspects

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE HUNTED AT LEAST one more suspect Monday after arresting five people in a fast-moving probe into three failed car bombings amid fears a new al-Qaida-style attack is imminent.

Britain has been put on maximum security alert after the failed attacks in London and Glasgow, which came days after a new government took office and ahead of the anniversary of July 7, 2005, suicide bombings in London.

Newspapers said at least one of the five held is believed to be a doctor. Those detained include two men who rammed a blazing car into the main Glasgow airport terminal on Saturday.

"I'm very encouraged by the progress" made in the investigation, said Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, who was to update lawmakers on the probe on Monday.

In an interview with BBC Radio, Smith praised the work of the police but neither she nor investigators elaborated on the suspects still being hunted.

The Daily Telegraph said police were now looking for at least one person suspected to be linked to an al-Qaida cell intending to launch attacks in Britain. The Guardian said at least three suspects were still at large.

Police said they found strong links between the discovery of two cars laden with gas canisters and nails in London's entertainment district on Friday and the Jeep used in the Glasgow airport attack.

Two men inside the Jeep were arrested at the airport, although the driver suffered severe burns after being engulfed in flames and is in a critical condition in a Scottish hospital.

Hours later antiterror officers arrested a 26-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman on a motorway in northwest England. They are now being questioned in London.

The man is an Iranian doctor who works at North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent, according to The Sun newspaper.

London's Metropolitan Police, which takes the lead in antiterrorism operations, refused to comment on this or on BBC reports that all those arrested were from the Middle East.

A spokesperson for North Staffordshire Hospital also declined to comment.

The fifth suspect, a 26-year-old man, was arrested at Liverpool's Lime Street Station on Saturday night.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who succeeded Tony Blair last Wednesday, indicated Sunday that al-Qaida-linked militants may well be behind the latest attacks.

"It is clear that we are dealing in general terms with people who are associated with al-Qaida in a number of incidents that have happened across the world," he told the BBC.

Brown added that Britain "will not yield, we will not be intimidated." Police antiterror chief Peter Clarke told reporters in Glasgow that the investigation was "extremely fast-moving" and added that the links between the three attacks in London and one in Glasgow were becoming "ever clearer."

Officers searched homes in Glasgow, Liverpool, and the nearby town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and also carried out a controlled explosion on a suspect car at a hospital where one of the Glasgow suspects was treated for burns.

Several British newspapers published gruesome photos of one of the suspected Glasgow attackers, writhing in pain on the ground outside the airport with severe burns. *AFP*

PRINCE William (left) and Prince Harry speak to the media during a star-studded pop concert in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, at Wembley Stadium in London on July 1. AP

Pop concert in tribute to Diana not marred by terror threats

LONDON—NEVER MIND THE terror alerts. To many Britons, and some visitors here, the concert in honor of Princess Diana on Sunday provided a chance to put into practice a sentiment voiced by the new prime minister, Gordon Brown, who vowed that "we will not allow anyone to undermine our British way of life."

Hundreds of police officers were on duty, and the authorities declared the air space over the new Wembley Stadium a no-fly zone as 90,000 concertgoers were expected for the tribute, organized by Diana's sons, Princes William and Harry.

The highly visible display of security seemed to reassure many people heading for the concert on Sunday, after the news of two failed car bombings in London on Friday and a botched attack Saturday at Glasgow airport. Others simply seemed resigned to living with the threat of terror.

"I don't mean to sound macabre, but when your time is up, it's up," said Jo Tullett, from Ashbourne in Derbyshire. "You've just got to take that attitude."

With a history of sustained terrorist attacks from Irish Republican Army splinter groups, many Britons long ago came to grips with the idea of going about their business, and leisure, amid heightened security. Security has been especially tight in London since the attacks on the city's transit system on July 7, 2005.

On the morning radio news bulletins on Sunday, the latest developments in the terror investigation had to share time with other issues, including the introduction of a ban on smoking in public places in England on Sunday and the flooding that has affected several parts of Britain after days of rainfall.

"These events, if you let that stop you, you wouldn't go out at all," said Sarah Twort, a Londoner who works in the marketing department at American Express, as she waited for friends outside the stadium. *NYT*

WHO urges pedal power vs emissions

KUALA LUMPUR—MORE BICYCLE riding and other lifestyle changes will reduce climate-altering carbon emissions that are damaging the health of people in Asia and could also threaten the economy, the World Health Organization said Monday.

Climate change contributes directly or indirectly to about 77,000 deaths per year in the region, according to WHO estimates.

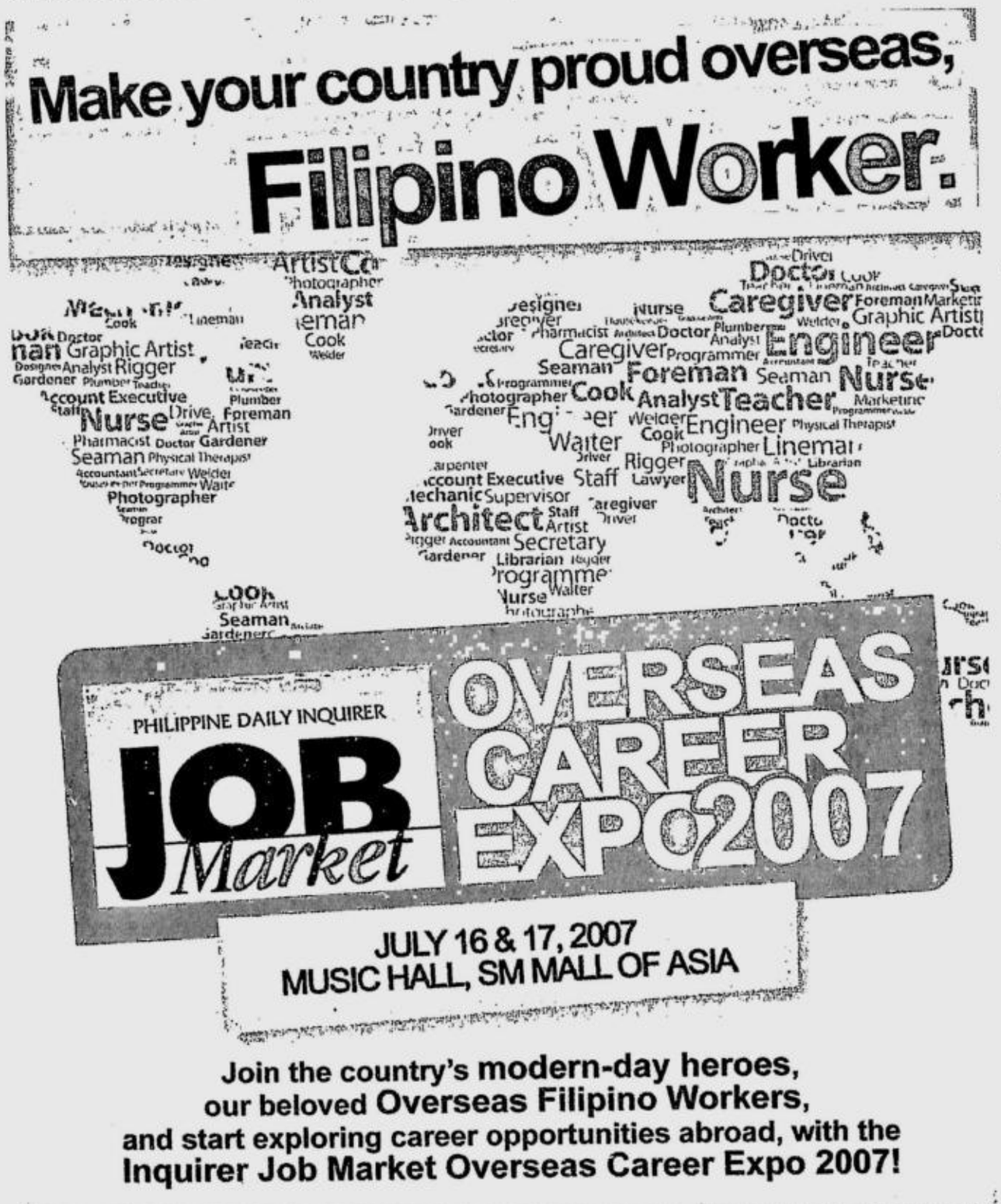
"So far the impact is on the health of the people. If the trend continues, it may have an impact on the economy," said Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific.

"Of course the threat is there. We should not wait for that to happen," he told reporters at the start of a four-day conference on the impact of climate change and health in Southeast and East Asian countries.

He said that in some countries environmental issues were not given the highest priority but "if we ignore the environment, humanity will suffer."

Omi proposed greater use of bicycles, the use of clean energy sources, and tax incentives to reduce carbon emissions.

Health threats from global warming include malaria and dengue fever due to the proliferation of mosquitoes, while reduced rainfall and water shortage could lead to waterborne diseases, the UN health agency said. *AFP*



WELL-KNOWN fast food items, oftentimes called junk food, in display in the United States. New York, on July 1 became the first US city to ban trans fats from its restaurants, but the city is facing an uphill struggle in forcing some eateries to display calorie information on their menus. AFP

New York 1st in US to ban trans fats in restaurants

NEW YORK—NEW YORK ON SUNDAY became the first US city to banish trans fats from its restaurants, but the city is facing an uphill struggle in forcing some eateries to display calorie information on their menus.

For the majority of New York's 20,000 restaurants, the transition towards healthier cooking oils seems to have gone smoothly, although some have displayed a degree of reluctance.

At the heart of the fashionable Soho district, Jerry's diner abandoned trans fats a long time ago, said chef David Rotter.

"The owner is really health-conscious, he cares about what he would eat and is applying that for the customers," Rotter said.

Popular Katz's Deli switched over to soybean oil about a year and a half ago without any problem, said general manager Rob Albinder.

"It's healthier, and so we figured we'd try it with a healthier type of oil," Albinder said. "It's a good quality product and customers seem to like it, it hasn't affected the flavor in any way."

The New York State Restaurant Association (NYSRA) pointed to difficulties in supplying restaurants with cooking oil alternatives, but even fast-food chains announced that they would join the movement against trans fats.

And, according to city officials, 83 percent of fast-food restaurants are already using frying oils that do not contain artery-clogging trans fats.

"This confirms that the switch is feasible," said Friday New York Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden. "But many restaurants are still using spreads such as margarine that contain artificial trans fat. These products need to be replaced with widely available alternatives." The ban, however, will not affect bakeries until July 2008.

And that is where processed vegetable oils containing trans fats are widely used to make baked goods crunchy.

Trans fats like saturated fat are often present in cookies, pasta, pizza and doughnuts, and they are believed to be contributing factors in the spread of cardiovascular diseases.

According to the Harvard School of Public Health, trans fats are linked to at least 500 annual deaths from cardiac arrest in New York. Since 2006 the US federal government has been forcing the food processing industry to carry the mention of trans fats on its products if they contain them.

"Gram for gram trans fat is the most harmful fat of all, so whatever you switch to is an improvement," said Julie Greenstein, deputy director of health promotion policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"Some (restaurants) have switched, but there are still many, many, many that have not switched, and that's why we think that other states need to pass laws similar to NYC's," she said.

According to Greenstein, the example of New York will be followed in the fall by the city of Philadelphia, while a dozen US states are warming to the idea.

In Europe, where consumption of greasy foods is not as widespread, Denmark has introduced limits on trans fats. But New York is already facing another battle, which involves putting information about calorie contents on menus.

This law, which also takes effect Sunday, concerns restaurants using standardized food, for which calorie information is already available, especially in fast-food restaurants.

On June 15, the NYSRA went to court, supported by big chains such as McDonald's. *AFP*

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SPORTS

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Wimbledon: Williams, Henin set up collision /A24

JONES CUP SHOCKER

San Mig-RP cagers stun proud US five

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—ALTHOUGH THE JONES CUP IS NOT ITS MAIN goal, the San Miguel-Pilipinas national five showed its tremendous potential by toppling defending champion United States, 72-67, at the start of the tournament's 29th edition here Monday.

The 5-foot-7 Jimmy Alapag stood tallest in the game with his court generalship and three-point shooting while Mark Caguioa came back from an ice-cold performance to finish with all guns ablaze at the Hsinchuang gym.

"Alapag bailed us out big time and Caguioa finished the job," gushed national coach Chot Reyes, whose boys are on the final leg of their crash preparation for the Fiba Asia championship, the Olympic qualifier, set late this month in Tokushima, Japan.

Next up for the Filipinos at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow is Lebanon, which downed Iran, 80-71.

In a pair of cliffhangers punctuating the opening-day bill, Jordan held on to nip Kazakhstan, 63-61, and South Korea nosed out Qatar, 70-69, behind followup by Kim Min-soo with three seconds left.

Although missing a lot of free throws, the Filipinos took the half at 39-31 behind the combination of Alapag, Gabe Norwood, Dondon Hontiveros and Asi Taulava.

But the Americans, represented by young collegians playing under the Athletes in Action banner, wrested the lead late in the third period and went on top by as many as five at 57-52 with five minutes left.

Then Alapag went to work, hitting a three-pointer followed by another triple by Mick Pennisi for 58-57.

A layup by Kerby Raymundo made it 60-57 before Caguioa took over after another Alapag long bomb, 63-59.

The popular Ginebra guard struck with a layup, added his own triple, then struck on a Caguioa-Alapag-Caguioa passing attack for 70-62 with 1:31 left.

Caguioa capped his explosive finish with a tight jumper from the side for 72-65 with 16 seconds left.

Seven more successive games against rivals they will face in the Fiba Asia championship follow for the Filipinos.

After the match against the Lebanese, the Nationals take on Japan at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, South Korea at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jordan at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and Iran also at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

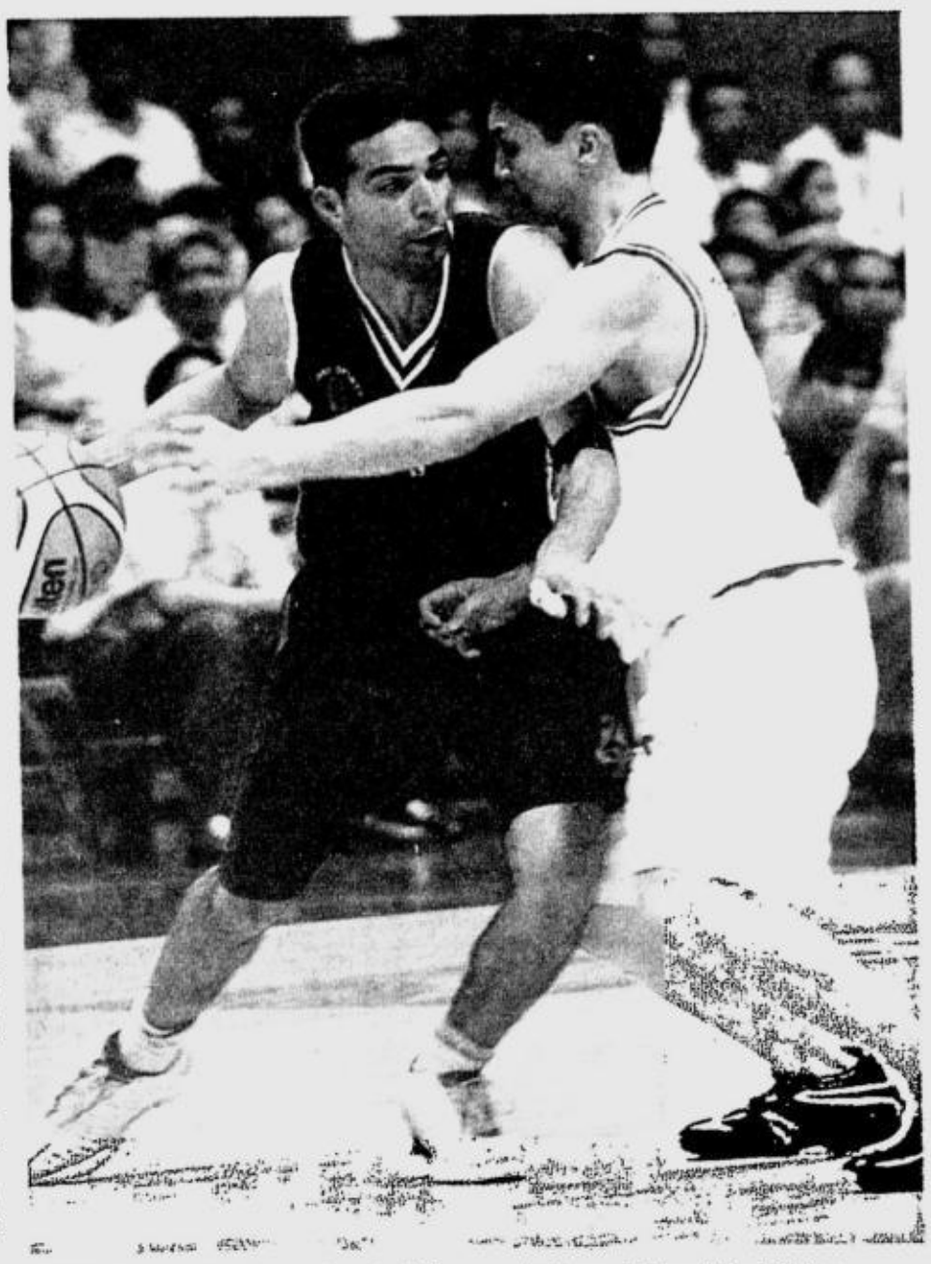
Their last three opponents in the straight single-round tournament are host Taiwan at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Qatar at 3:30 p.m. on Monday and Kazakhstan at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The scores:

RP 72—Alapag 19, Caguioa 14, Pennisi 11, Hontiveros 11, Norwood 7, Raymundo 5, Taulava 5, Ocampo 0, Helterbrand 0, Williams 0,Canaleta 0

US 67—Hendley 11, Gibson 10, Wilkerson 10, Rollins 9, Sloan 8, T. Pollits 6, Nichols 5, Roulf 5, E. Pollits 2, Hammonds 1, Harris 0, Ashbury 0.

Quarters: 23-25, 39-31, 45-46, 72-67



JIMMY Alapag (right), tenacious in defense and offense, bails out the Filipino.

SEAG-bound team opens tryouts tomorrow

CASTRO

LANETE

By Jasmine W. Payo

AMATEUR STARS TAKE A CRACK AT the national pool set to compete in the men's basketball competition of the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

The national tryouts will start at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Reyes Gym in Mandaluyong City, SEA Games head coach Junel Baculi announced.

Baculi previously presented a wish list of nearly 50 players from the PBL and the collegiate leagues that included Jason Castro, the PBL Most Valuable Player for two straight conferences.

But Baculi said that the tryouts will also welcome commercial league standouts.

"I saw three players from Cebu who have bright chances of making it," he said. "If we can train them early, we can use them in future national teams."

Other players eyed for the RP roster include Harbour Centre's Chico Lanete, Beau Belga and Jojo Duncil, Toyota Balintawak's Erick Rodriguez, Burger King's Ronjay Buenafe, Mike Bravo and Nestor David and Henkel's Lawrence Bonus.

Leading the candidates from the collegiate ranks are Jervy Cruz of the University of Santo Tomas and the trio of Mark Borboran, Marcy Arellano and Elmer Espiritu of the University of the East.

"We want total commitment from the players because we're talking about the country's honor and pride," said Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, project director of the all-amateur squad. "This is our comeback stint in the SEA Games, so I hope everybody will cooperate."

Squires upset Staglets; Cubs, Bombers prevail

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH STEADY HANDS FROM THE FOUL line and calm nerves at crunchtime, Letran's Darryl Reforsado broke San Sebastian's myth of invincibility last night.

The 6-foot swingman hit two charities with eight seconds left to lift the Squires over the two-time defending champion Staglets, 75-74, in the NCAA junior basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Reforsado first fished a foul off Arvie Bringas underneath before making the free throws that secured Letran's first win in two outings and pulled San Sebastian to the same record.

"This is a big win for us and gets us really motivated," said Letran coach Elmer Latonio, whose Squires yielded to CSB-LSGH, 81-64, in the season opener. "We hope to sustain this momentum and improve further in our next game."

Earlier, San Beda frolicked against token opposition while Jose Rizal leaned on a second-quarter burst to register its first victory.

The Red Cubs pounded the hapless Perpetual Altalettes to score a 115-74 rout for their second straight victory in as many games while the JRU Light Bombers stopped the CSB-La Salle Greenies, 86-71.

The scores:

First Game

JOSE RIZAL 86—Cipriano 27, Agovida 20, Vigil 13, Madlangbayan 11, Regis 9, Vital 6, Villegas 0, Villasper 0, Reyes 0, Matias 0, Cataluna 0, Camar 0.

CSB-LSGH 71—De la Paz 21, Reyes Martin 18, Nicolas 12, Reyes Miguel 6, Reyes Marcus 6, Quebral Michael 4, Malimban 4, Yulo 0, Seno 0, Flores 0, Asuncion 0.

Quarters: 19-19, 47-32, 66-47, 86-71.

Second Game

SAN BEDA 115—Salva 27, Del Rosario 12, Ayala 11, Asinas 10, Panaligan 9, Lobaton 9, Altamirano 8, Revilla 7, Bemas 6, Dela Cruz 4, Palma 4, Figuracion 3, Monteclaro 3, Banal 2.

PERPETUAL 74—Jolangcob 18, Pagkalinawan 14, Eriobu 11, Mancio 11, Biscocho 101, Valentin 5, Manzareno 4, Mojado 1, Francisco 0, Dizon 0, Pabillano 0, Dejaresco 0.

Quarters: 22-20, 54-30, 87-47,115-74.

Third Game

LETRAN 75—Noble 17, Alas Kr. 15, Reforsado 11, Alas Ke. 9, San Jose 6, Khobuntin 5, Munsayac 4, Bagslt 2, Javier 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 74—Buenafe 36, Gusi 6, Delgado Jo. 9, Bringas 8, Andrada 3, Ortuoste 2, Delgado Je. 0, Cam 0, Delgado F. 0, Estrada 0, Bautista 0.

Quarters: 15-24, 35-37, 56-61, 75-74.

Tigresses go for V-League title clincher vs Lady Stags

GAME TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
5 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Santo Tomas

IF THE BEST-OF-THREE FINALS OPENER were to be the gauge, there is no way San Sebastian could stop University of Santo Tomas from taking its second Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament crown today.

The Tigresses, the league's inaugural winners in 2004 before the La Salle Lady Archers' took over in the next three conferences, dominated Sunday's Game 1, 25-17, 25-12, 25-17.

No Lady Stag was able to turn in a double-digit production as the Tigresses' defense thwarted a total of 58 San Sebastian attempts.

League MVP and Best Scorer Jaroensri Bualee, San Sebastian's Thai import who averages close to 20 points, scored only eight.

UST coach Augusto Santamaria remains cautious, though, as two of his best players, Mary Jean Balse and Rubie de Leon are afflicted with flu. They saw action in Game 1 but are not expected to be 100 percent fit in today's Game 2, which starts 5 p.m. at The Arena.

"*Mahirap masabi kung tatapusin na namin sa* (It's hard to say if we'll finish the series in) Game 2. We will do our best," said Santamaria, who steered UST to last year's UAAP crown.

San Sebastian is also feeling the absence of Jinni Mondejar, the 2006 NCAA MVP who was operated on for appendicitis last Friday.

"Wrong timing. Even in the NCAA, it will take long before she can play again," said coach Roger Gorayeb.

Romina S. Austria

ALL FOR ONE: UAAP coaches put their hands together. From left, UE's Dindo Pumaren, UP assistant coach Ramil Cruz, Ateneo's Norman Black, NU's Manny Dandan, UST's Pido Jarencio, FEU's Glenn Capacio, Adamson's Bogs Adornado and La Salle's Franz Pumaren. The league's 70th season opens this Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum. RYAN LIM

Eagles, Archers resume fierce UAAP duel July 26

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS THE MATCHUP MOSTLY MISSED LAST SEASON.

Longtime collegiate rivals Ateneo Blue Eagles and the returning La Salle Green Archers fight for the first time in over a year in the coming 70th UAAP men's basketball competition.

Norman Black, who has yet to win against La Salle since taking over the Ateneo bench in 2005, expects another tight showdown on July 26, two weeks after this Saturday's league opener at the Araneta Coliseum.

"La Salle has been practicing for a year, they've been together, so it's going to be tough for us this year," said Black. "We're trying to get experience for some of our young guys. Hopefully by game five, we'll be ready to play against the Green Archers."

Ls Salle coach Franz Pumaren pointed out the Eagles' advantage over the Archers, who served a one-year suspension last season for fielding two ineligible players in three consecutive seasons.

"Ateneo has been training hard and I think they're the only school that went to the States for training," he said.

While La Salle boasts a strong core led by Rico Maierhofer and TY Tang, Ateneo lost to graduation JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona, the trio who powered the Eagles to the Finals last season.

But Black assessed: "We have a combination of youth and experience. It's just a matter of creating new stars, creating new players to contribute to the team."

Hoping to imbibe the same philosophy are the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers, who took a heavy blow in their title-retention bid with the recent departure of team star Jojo Duncil.

"We have a week and it's a big adjustment for us," said coach Pido Jarencio, who steered the Tigers to their first championship in 10 years on his rookie season.

UAAP president Fr. Ermito de Sagon of host UST clarified the sudden decision of Duncil to join the PBA rookie draft.

"We have no doubt about his person," said De Sagon of the 2006 Finals Most Valuable Player. "But he has two NSO-certified birth certificates, one will make him eligible, one will make him ineligible this year. [The issue is] an additional burden, an excess load for us. We don't want to be distracted. We don't want our games to be put in question."

Together with La Salle, Ateneo and UST, the University of the East Warriors are favored to land in the top four.

"This year is going to be very tight," UE coach Dindo Pumaren predicted. "All the teams are very competitive. We have a balanced field."

Tabbed as this season's dark horse are the National University Bulldogs. "Our bench is deeper, we have better depth at the frontline," said NU mentor Manny Dandan.

First-year coaches Bogs Adornado of the Adamson Bulldogs and Glenn Capacio of Far Eastern University Tamaraws hope to come out competitive despite a rookie-laden lineup, the same predicament of the University of the Philippines Maroons.

De Sagon, who graced yesterday's media launch with the UAAP board representatives, said the league will roll out 14 sports, including beach volleyball this season. High school football will be a demonstration sport.

Long overdue: Free meals, drinks for nat'l athletes

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION has unveiled a first in Philippine sports: a round-the-clock cafeteria for athletes where food and drinks are free.

The canteen, which will serve about 800 national athletes, has been completed after nearly six months. Construction started when the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee mapped out a long-term plan to win the country's first-ever Olympic gold.

The actual operation of the P10-million cafeteria, however, has been pushed to a later schedule. The reason: The PSC has yet to seal a deal with a prospective concessionaire.

"We're still in the process of bidding the operations for the canteen," said commissioner Ritchie Garcia. "I don't understand why it has taken this long to choose one (concessionaire).

"It should be opened to the athletes within the month," said Garcia.

KINGS REIGN: Coach Mike Advani receives the championship trophy from Indian Embassy counselor Tsewang Namgyal and FIBL commissioner Dilip Budhrani (sixth and seventh from left, standing) after his Kings squad beat the Knights to win the title at the PhilSports Arena recently.

Asian triathlon lures World No. 1

TRIATHLETES GET DOUBLE THE challenge in the tough 2007 Asian 02 Long Distance Triathlon on Aug. 4 at the Subic Freeport in Zambales.

World No. 1 Peter Vabrousek of the Czech Republic will be back to defend his title in the lung-busting 3K swim-80K bike-20K run race, which is twice the Olympic triathlon distance.

"With the success of our first event last year, we expect to attract an even bigger number of entries this year including foreign bidders," said Tom Carrasco Jr., president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP).

A sprint distance of 1K swim-24K bike-5K run will also be featured in the event sanctioned by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) and the Asian Triathlon Confederation (ASTC).

"We hope to see this long-distance triathlon event grow into something similar to the Subic Bay International Traithlon," said Carrasco, who was recently re-elected as .ASTC senior vice president and ITU Asian representative to the executive board.

The event will also run relay races and age group competitions in the men's (20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 40-44, 45-49, 50 and up) and women's divisions (20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40 and up).

Entry forms are available at the TRAP office at Room 212 Building Alpha at PhilSports; Bike King at Bonifacio High Street, Global City in Taguig; and Speedo concept stores in Megamall, Podium, Mall of Asia and Alabang Town Center. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Condes to challenge Rachman for crown

INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDeration mandatory challenger Florante Condes of the Philippines arrived in Jakarta yesterday for his July 7 showdown with IBF 105-lb king Muhammad Rachman of Indonesia.

Joining Condes and manager Aljoe Jaro in the trip were Filipino trainer Francisco Jaro and lawyer Joaquin Mendoza.

Trainer George Sol stayed behind as he will be working on the corner of Denver Cuello, who will shoot for Condes' vacated Philippine title against Arman De la Cruz also on July 7 in Manila.

Other members of Team Condes coming from Las Vegas include co-manager Dante Ortiz, promoter Bobby Bostick, Cesar Trevino and ex-WBA world champ Morris East.

Officiating are fight supervisor Lindsey Tucker, referee Wayne Hedgepeth and judges Salven Lagumbay, Montol Suriyachand of Thailand and Mohammad Rois of Indonesia. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

SPORTSWATCH

'Hatawan' kicks off at Roligon today

ABOUT 300 COCKERS AND GAMEFOWL BREEDERS PLUNGE INTO ACTION today in the "Hatawan Sa Tag-ulan" 6-cock derby, backed by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Today's 2-cock elimination round will feature some 100 fights beginning at 2 p.m. Last year's Hatawan, hosted by Rolly Ligon, drew 356 entries and was won by backyard breeders Cesar Marquez and Ricky Yulo. This year, Ligon staked a guaranteed prize of P3.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800. Among those fielding their ace fighters are Bobby Seelin, Romulo Balbedera, Benny Lado, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Boy Marcelino, Darwin Torres, Reden Arcibal and Rudy Cruz.

SJC Int'l Derby bidders get rebates

PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT SJC INTERNATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY WILL receive rebates starting tomorrow, the management of San Juan Coliseum announced yesterday. Pit manager Pete Rivera said the SJC is the only cockpit in Metro Manila that gives back a certain percentage of derby proceeds to participants. The SJC International Derby, held on June 11, 13 and 15, drew 100 entries and had four co-champions—partners Patrick Antonio and Joe Sanford of California, Kabu Taniguchi of Japan, Arman Santos of Laguna and the Super Pacman Complexor entry. Meanwhile, participants in tomorrow's PE Pablo 5-Cock Derby must submit their entries today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Race 1— (Tri) —Capretiosa (4), Security Queen (5), Acuris (1)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Dixie Dash (1), Gun Powder (3), Iverson (5), Graceful Conqueror (8)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Afternoon Delight (11), Sambat (4), Runnin Rebel (9), Batang Westside (3), Dynamic Duo (10)

Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Blue Sheikh (9), Scarlet Summit Force/Courage Heart (7), Queen Of Gaia (2), God Is Good (1), Beautiful Jaeda (6)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hakuna Matata/Striking Cat (7), Gold And Diamond (9), Speed Admiral (2), Bloodline (6), Real Tough (4)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Smashing Success (6), Reign Of D'Jungle (8), Madel Line (11), Power Dance (2), Pure Energy (7), Sea Of Galilee (4)

BY TOP CHOICE

Skyterror (12), Refreshing (4), Rho Sig (11), Terminator (8), Long Hitter (10)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (8), Mr. Bonjing (4), Crafty Treasure (5), Concorde (6)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—

PSC revamp jeopardizes Olympic bid

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THIS IS NO BRIEF FOR PHILIPPINE SPORTS Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and the PSC commissioners, but effecting a revamp at the agency is not good because that will only throw off course the country's sports development program.

Besides, a revamp will also jeopardize the country's preparations for next year's Olympic Games in Beijing, where the Philippines is hoping to win its first-ever Olympic gold medal.

In a recent presidential directive signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all government department heads, including officials of the PSC, to file their courtesy resignations on or before June 30 this year.

The PSC board is composed of chair Ramirez and commissioners Richie Garcia, Ambrosio de Luna, Leon Montemayor and Joey Mundo.

In my view, Ramirez and the PSC commissioners should be retained. One compelling reason why Philippine sports is not making any headway is because of the frequent changes in the PSC leadership.

* * *

Since 1990, the PSC has had many chairs. In 1990, then President Corazon Aquino appointed lawyer Cecilio Hechanova as the agency's first chair. Then in late 1992, Dr. Aparicio Mequi of the University of the Philippines was named to the position by President Fidel Ramos.

On September 1993, Ramos designated lawyer Dominador Cepeda, then a PSC commissioner, to serve as acting officer-in-charge until former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez was named the third PSC chair. Lopez resigned in 1995.

Management expert Philip Ella Juico succeeded Lopez, staying at the helm until 1998.

With a change of administration in 1998, President Joseph Estrada named Carlos Tuason of the shooting association as PSC chair. In February 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed former swimming champion Eric Buhain as the sixth, and youngest, PSC chair. Then Ramirez took over in 2005.

* * *

The positions of PSC chair and commissioners are very important and delicate positions. That is why newly elected Sen. Francis Escudero is correct in batting for a fixed term for top officials of the PSC.

These positions should be given only to people who rose from the ranks, those who have the experience and background in sports.

* * *

With little fanfare, the Filipino-Indian community recently welcomed the return of the Filipino Indian Basketball League at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

The Kings, mentored by former Ginebra player Mike Advani, kept the Ambassador's Cup, beating the Knights, 2-1, in their exciting best-of-three championship series.

The biggest revelation of the league was Manoj Chandumal, a rookie who garnered seven awards, including league MVP, championship series MVP and Rookie of the Year.

I have seen the FIBL grow through the years. Under the able stewardship of commissioner Dilip Budhrani, it became a major sporting event widely followed by the Fil-Indian community not only in Metro Manila but also in nearby provinces.

* * *

The league was launched in 1999 and was held annually until Budhrani resigned in 2004 due to personal commitments. But with no one filling his shoes, his love and passion for the sport prevailed and he finally found himself only too willing to carry on where he left off.

According to Dilip, the sixth season wouldn't have been possible without the help of people who worked hard in putting together the four teams—Mike Advani for the Kings, Murli Mohnani for the Knights, Mahesh Mirpuri for the Blue Sharks and Dave Sahijwani—as well as Ani Buxani of Molten, the league's official ball.

Filipinos ready to weather Int'l Pairs challenge

ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND—More than anything, it's a battle against the weather for the Ayala Greenfields pair of Augie Palisoc Jr. and Boy De Fiesta when they carry the Philippine colors in the International Pairs world final at the St. Andrews Bay Links here starting Monday (today, Manila time).

Palisoc, a Metro Pacific executive, and De Fiesta, a construction firm owner, are expecting the worse after they called off a scheduled practice round on Sunday due to severe fogging at the golf resort.

Severe cold has enveloped St. Andrews the past few days and the rains on Saturday denied the early birds in the 19-nation tournament a chance to even walk the course.

The Greenfield duo planed in on Saturday with skipper Juami Rocha after a week that saw them rushing a trip to the home of golf following the failure of a Royal Northwoods team to produce visas on time.

Northwoods actually beat Greenfield in the qualifier that decided the Philippine representation.

Palisoc and De Fiesta will try to defend the title won by the Philippines through Felix Cortez and Gary Sales last year at the Celtic Manor in Wales.

Cortez, now the event licensee for Asia, led the RP team, supported by Lufthansa and Callaway, in the traditional opening march of nations through the famous 17th and 18th holes of the St. Andrews Old course and around town.

He later said that winning the title remains "one of the most unforgettable moments of my life."

Rocha, a former national player and now golf director of Ayala Greenfield, said his wards are excited and ready: "We came here without any expectations since we're just last-minute replacements. But Augie and Boy are looking forward to making the most of this chance."

Honasan vows PSC help, but is silent on budget

HONASAN

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SENATOR GREGORIO "GRINGO" HONASAN yesterday pledged his support to local sports by serving as the "voice" of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Honasan, who is expected to be named head of the Senate's sports and youth committee, attended the government agency's flag-raising ceremony and had breakfast with members of the PSC board.

He vowed to champion the cause of the PSC, whose budget this year was cut from P108 million to P28 million by a Senate almost unconcerned about the national athletes' preparations for two important sporting competitions.

"In spite of the conditions, our athletes are doing well, not because we have a clear and long-term program but because we are talented," said the 59-year-old Honasan.

He did not make any commitment regarding budget matters but offered his help on issues concerning sports and national athletes.

"There are only two occasions where the Filipinos unite, during People Power (protests) and when our athletes compete," added Honasan.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez informed the senator that the agency's budget has been tight because of the two-year delay in the remittances from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Ramirez said the release of the cash from the two government agencies would go a long way in sustaining the athletes' preparation for their defense of the Southeast Asian Games overall title in Thailand this December, as well as the country's bid to win its first Olympic gold medal in the Beijing Games next year.

Commissioner Richie Garcia lamented that after the country ruled the 2005 SEA Games, a diffident Senate drastically reduced the P250-million PSC budget approved by the House of Representatives.

Honasan said there is "no right or wrong" as far as the national budget is concerned. He said every department can always claim that their budget is not enough.

Passion to excel fuels new hurdles queen

SHEENA ATILANO: Emulating Elma Muros

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

SHE MARVELS AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING dubbed as the heir apparent to a living legend.

But Sheena Atilano, the new queen of Philippine hurdles, shrugs off any comparison to local athletics great Elma Muros.

"It's an honor (to be compared to Muros)," the 27-year-old athlete from the sugar-producing city of La Carlota, Negros Occidental, told the INQUIRER Sunday night. "There will only be one Elma Muros and it will be hard to equal what she achieved."

But Atilano, who reset the RP record in the 100-meter hurdles with her 13.65-second time in the Asian Athletics Grand Prix, acknowledges Muros' contributions to her success.

"*Kaya mo 'yan—tiyaga lang, tiis lang, sipag lang* (You can do it through hard work, sacrifice and diligence)," Muros would remind Atilano during training sessions at the Rizal Memorial track stadium in Manila.

Muros' positive energy has apparently rubbed off on Atilano, who showed swift improvement following a four-month training stint in Southern California.

Breaking Muros' record

From her previous best of 14.46 seconds, which she registered in a fifth-place finish in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, the 5-foot-6 Atilano churned in a career best of 13.71 in a track meet in the United States, before finally breaking Muros' 16-year-old record of 13.66 in Pune, India, Wednesday night.

In February, Atilano put her career as a content development associate for online messaging service Chikka Asia Inc., on hold and left for the US to train together with sprinter Ralph Waldy Soguilon under the supervision of Fil-Am coach Jerry Cablayan.

The training paid dividends for both athletes as Soguilon smashed the 100m and 200m RP records and Atilano posted silver-bronze-bronze finishes in the grand prix held in Bangkok and the Indian cities of Guwahati and Pune.

"I may need to report for work on Tuesday," she said, jokingly.

Focused on SEAG gold

But Atilano, whose career touched off with an elementary girls' long jump gold in the 1993 Palarong Pambansa, said she remains focused on bringing home her first SEA Games gold medal this year from Thailand.

"My target is 13.40 because that was the record of the SEAG winner two years ago," said Atilano, who beat SEAG silver medalist Dede Erawati of Indonesia twice in the grand prix.

Concentrating on jumping events early in her career, Atilano started hurdles training only in her senior year at Dona Hortensia Salas Benedicto National High School. She made an immediate impact, capturing the gold for Western Visayas in the 1997 Palaro in Bicol.

Instead of moving to Manila, where a number of schools offered her athletic scholarships, she returned to Negros and graduated with a degree in Management Information Systems from the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod.

Blessed with stable job

Already blessed with a stable job and taking up her masters in special education at De La Salle University, Atilano decided to give herself one last shot at athletics glory in 2005.

"I am more focused and determined now," said Atilano, who, at 25, was one of the oldest athletes to break into the national pool.

Good thing, Atilano said, that there are people around her who are very supportive, among them La Salle's Terry Capistrano and Muros' husband, athletics coach Jojo Posadas.

"I'm just blessed to have around me people who are very supportive of my career," she said.

While Atilano is quick to dismiss any affinity with Muros and is nowhere near the athletics legend's impressive record of 15 SEA Games gold medals, they share something in common: A passion for athletic excellence.

"I just want to excel and maximize my talent," Atilano said. "This is my passion and it gives me self-satisfaction."

FASTER, STRONGER: Sheena pulls the harness during training in Southern California.

NBC: GenSan five gets back at Ozamiz

DAVAO CITY—LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER catching the front-running Tagaytay Spring at the top of the heap in the 2007 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament, defending champion Ozamiz Cotta tumbled to third place.

The Cotta Shrine cagers fell to boxing hero Manny Pacquiao's MP Pacman GenSan, 91-99, barely a day after winning their first meeting, 101-93, at the JS Gaisano gym here.

Pacquiao's Warriors started strong behind the inside-outside tandem of Jaypee Locsin and Apol Coronado and never looked back after surging to a 29-19 first quarter lead.

Locsin and Coronado combined for 38 points while Gensan's tight defense limited Bruce Dacia, Marlon Basco and Melfred Sampilo to a combined output of 18 points, way below their 66-point production a night earlier.

STANDINGS	W	L
Tagaytay	9	3
Iligan	10	4
Ozamiz	9	4
GenSan	9	6
Pagadian	7	7
Davao	6	10
Valencia	5	11
Quezon	5	11
Iloilo	2	0

Ozamiz fell 9-4, behind Tagaytay Spring (9-3) and Firefly Iligan (10-4) while GenSan improved to a 9-6 in the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Yahoo Phils., San Miguel Beer, Caltex, Sun Cellular, Firefly Lightings, Trans Asia Shipping Lines, Molten, Nature's Spring, Basketball TV and Viva Prime Channel.

"We made the right adjustments after our first meeting," said GenSan mentor Ramon Pido.

The scores:

GENSAN 99—Coronado 20, Locsin 18, Mentor 12, Medalla 11, Ramos 11, Dennison 9, Farochillen 7, Celiz 4, Tadena 3, Recustodio 1

OZAMIZ 91—Cavan 21, Nicdao 18, Dacia 13, Gatumbato 13, Alberto 11, Bansil 6, Basco 5, Alvarado 2, Liangco 2, Tiongson 0, Smapilo 0, Balares 0.

Quarters: 29-19, 55-44, 73-64, 99-91

Bargo sinks opposition for top swimmer plum

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD DIANNE BARgo of Marikina Swimming Team swept her events to put away the Most Outstanding Swimmer plum in the 2007 Milo-sponsored Novice Swimming Meet recently.

Bargo ruled the 50-meter butterfly (46.34 seconds), backstroke (43.74), breaststroke (51.13) and freestyle (35.94) to finish with four gold medals in the girls' 11-12 age group recently.

Winning in their respective age groups were Isabelle Filio of Reptile Swimming Team of Biñan, Laguna, Ezekiel Langholf of Mindoro Rainbows Swimming Club in Roxas, Mindoro, Nicolo Alejandrino of MST and Azor Basco of Golden Flippers Swimming Club.

Filio bagged the most outstanding swimmer award in the girls' 9-10 group with gold-medal finishes in the 50m butterfly (48.60 seconds), backstroke (52.13) and freestyle (43.07).

Basco dominated the boys' 11-12 bracket with victories in the 50m butterfly (35.52), backstroke (39.70) and freestyle (33.05).

Langhold also finished with three golds in the boys' 7-8 play, after topping the 25m butterfly (21.28), backstroke (24.44) and freestyle (40.83).

Alejandrino ruled the 25m butterfly (25.68), backstroke (27.58) and freestyle (23.36) to top the boys' 5-6.

The competition drew over 300 novice swimmers aged 4-14 from 25 swimming clubs all over the country.

Organized by Learn To Swim under former Philippine team tanker Ral Rosario, the meet was part of Milo's efforts to promote sports development and discover potential champions in the countrysides.

Milo sports events AVP Pat Gocong and marketing and quality assurance specialist Bles Villareal graced the awarding ceremony.

EZEKIEL Langholf on his way to the 50-meter butterfly gold.

DIANNE Bargo is flanked by coach Angel Rastrullo (left) and meet organizer Ral Rosario.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
QATAR AIRWAYS COMPANY WITH LIMITED LIABILITY (Phil. Branch Office) 2/F F&M Lopez Bldg., 109 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Kaluarachchige Rohan Lal Seneviratne	Area Manager-Manila
ECU-LINE PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit D5 G/F Echelon Tower 2100, A. Mabini St., Manila	Sachin Anand	Country Manager
METRO LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION SCHOOL (MLCS), INC. G/F Manila Luxury Condo., Pearl Dr., cor. Goldloop, Pasig City	Hyunjung Yun	Supervisor for Online Teaching
YESON TRAVEL & TOURS SERVICES MANILA, INC. 1727-A Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Chan Jung Park	General Manager
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Energy Center, Merritt Rd., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Jayantha Nagendran	Consultant (Project Coordination Manager)
TVN CONSTRUCTION CORP. 11 Lakeshore Dr. Lakeshore Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Jianjia Ke	Consultant
TVN CONSTRUCTION CORP. 11 Lakeshore Dr. Lakeshore Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Jianghuai Zeng	Technical Consultant
TVN CONSTRUCTION CORP. 11 Lakeshore Dr. Lakeshore Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Ronghui Zhou	Technical Consultant
MOUNTAIN PEAK CASTLE TRADING CORP. 7830 Makati Ave., Poblacion, Makati City	Bon Chul Koo	Manager
PRAISEWORTHY CORP. 187 E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Yeong-Sung Kim	Marketing Manager
PGU GEN. MDSE INC. Unit 3, 2/F Midland Plaza Hotel, Adriatico, Manila	Ming Tong Tiu	Marketing Consultant
JABEZ INT'L. EDUCATION CENTER INC. 4/F SJG Center, Rockwell Drive, Kalayaan Ave., Makati City	Hyun Joo Yu	Manager
GREENPOLE INDUSTRIAL & TRADING CORPORATION 107 9th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City	Ming-Hsing Shih a.k.a. David Shih	President & Chairman of the Board
GREENPOLE INDUSTRIAL & TRADING CORPORATION 107 9th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City	Chiu-Mei Hsiao a.k.a. Amy Hsiao	Vice President / Treasurer
KPM "INT'L" INC. Kalayaan cor. Makati Ave., Poblacion, Makati City	Young Soon Choi (w/o LEE)	Assistant Manager
KPM "INT'L" INC. Kalayaan cor. Makati Ave., Poblacion, Makati City	Tae Joon Lee	General Manager
RAMERR EQUIPMENT, INC. Km. 14 Kayamanan Cmpd., West Service Road, SLEX South Superhighway, Merville, Parañaque City	Ala'A Hussein Mohammad Alabed	Assistant Vice President
IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 30/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Suchitra Srinath	Deputy General Manager, Business Controls, Finance
WAKI TRADING INTERNATIONAL INC. 61 Kanlaon St., Mandaluyong City	Siao Ki Teo	Operation Manager
MIRAK RESTAURANT 39 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Chi Ro Jo	General Manager
BOUNTY FRESH FOOD INC. 179 Mariano Ponce St., Caloocan City	Raphael F.J. Lemmens	Operations Manager
CITITEXT INC. 2069 Dr. M. Carreon St., Sta. Ana, Manila	Chih-Wei Chang a.k.a. David Chang	Consultant
AVON COSMETICS, INC. 7901 Gercon Plaza, Makati Avenue, Makati City	Soo Young Hwang (w/o PARK)	Designer
E-CUBE DATA CENTER, INC. 48 Polaris St., Poblacion, Makati City	Joonho Chung	Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-8920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI-July 3, 2007)

SPORTS

Wimbledon: Williams, Henin set up collision

LONDON—JUSTINE HENIN AND SERENA Williams will be aiming to clear the last treacherous hurdles on Monday before setting up a tantalizing quarterfinal showdown at Wimbledon.

While organizers face the headache of getting the schedule back on track after rain washed away all but two matches on Saturday, world number one Henin will open proceedings on Centre Court against Patty Schnyder.

The Swiss has survived three three-setters to reach the last 16 but cannot afford a concentration lapse if she is to have any chance of narrowing a 7-1 losing record against Henin.

Like Henin, Williams has yet to drop a set at this year's championships and she will be keen to enjoy a quick workout against Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova.

Andy Roddick once again finds himself in the familiar role of being the sole American survivor in the men's draw and will be gunning for revenge when he comes up against France's Paul-Henri Mathieu.

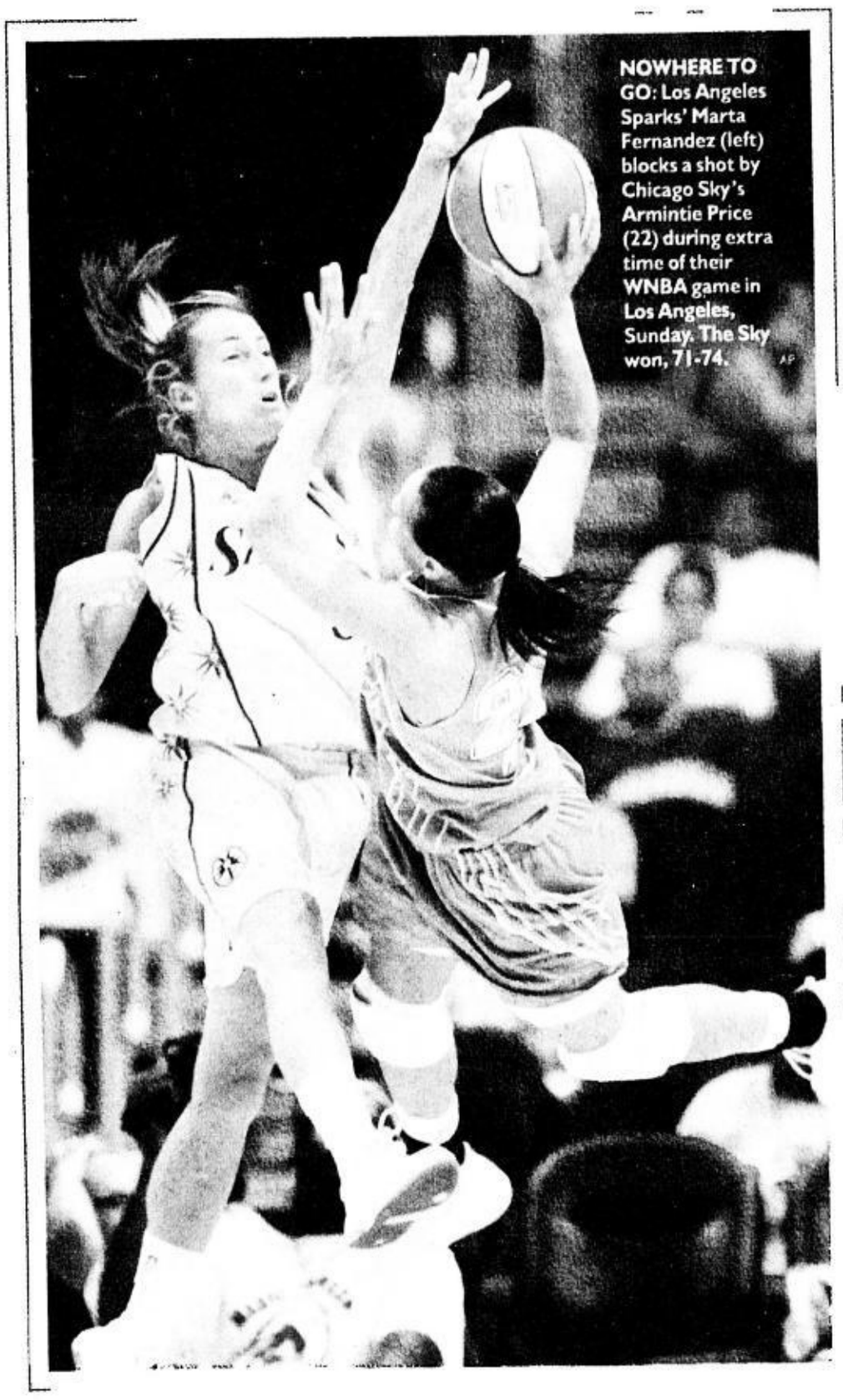
Mathieu came out on top in their only previous meeting and if he wins France will be guaranteed a men's semi-finalist as he will face either Richard Gasquet or wildcard Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the last eight.

Roger Federer will be enjoying a rest day after his opponent, Tommy Haas, pulled out with a stomach strain.

The man seeded to meet the defending champion in the final will, however, be playing catch-up as Rafael Nadal remains stranded in the third round thanks to the bad weather. The Spaniard will face Sweden's Robin Soderling.

Venus Williams will be hoping for better fortune when she resumes her tussle with Japan's Akiko Morigami. The American was two breaks down in the second set after winning the first 6-2. *Reuters*

JUSTINE Henin returns to Argentina's Jorgelina Cravero, during their first-round match, on the No. 1 Court at Wimbledon, Monday. AP



NOWHERE TO GO: Los Angeles Sparks' Marta Fernandez (left) blocks a shot by Chicago Sky's Armintie Price (22) during extra time of their WNBA game in Los Angeles, Sunday. The Sky won, 71-74. AP

Kerr cops US Open title

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA—US veteran Cristie Kerr captured her first major golf title here Sunday, outdueling top-ranked Lorena Ochoa down the final holes to win the 62nd US Women's Open by two strokes.

Kerr fired a final-round one-under par 70 in the afternoon after finishing a darkness-interrupted third-round 66 in the morning to complete 72 holes on five-under par 279 and take her 10th career title.

"Today was my day," Kerr said. "To hold it together down the stretch and make all those putts all week, it was really unbelievable."

Kerr's nearest misses in prior majors included runner-up finishes at last year's Women's British Open and the 2000 US Women's Open, third places at the Kraft Nabisco in 2002 and 2005 and five other top-five major finishes.

Mexican star Ochoa and Kerr, each trying to win the first major title of her career, dueled down the final holes for the $560,000 top prize at the $3.1 million event, the third major championship of the LPGA season.

KEATS LONDON CONTRIBUTOR

CRISTIE Kerr: Today's my day

"Whatever it took, I was going to win this tournament," Kerr said. "Some things are meant to happen. When I came here in '96 I was a low amateur and last time in 2001 I finished fourth."

Kerr, using a putter she bought in South Korea, birdied the third hole and took a bogey at the fifth but the crucial stroke was a 20-foot birdie putt at the par-4 14th to seize a one-stroke lead over Ochoa.

"That birdie at 14 was unbelievable," Kerr said.

Ochoa opened with birdies at the first and third holes then made 13 pars in a row, including a testy 10-footer at the 15th after going over the green, but a bogey at the 17th gave Kerr a two-stoke edge as she walked to the final tee.

Ochoa kept the pressure on Kerr to the final green but again was denied in her bid for a first major triumph, setting for a share of second with Brazil's Angela Park on 281.

Ochoa made a par at 18 to finish with a final-round 71 but Kerr tapped-in for the victory, squatted, then put her head in her hands and began to cry before accepting congratulatory hugs from her caddie and Ochoa.

"It was hard to fight back the tears," Kerr said. "It was a very, very emotional day."

Park and US teen In-Bee Park, who finished fourth on 282 with Korean Se Ri Pak, are of Korean heritage. *AFP*

Bateman nails 1st tour victory

GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN—AFTER nine trips to qualifying school and 150 tournaments without a win, Brian Bateman might have considered spending a little less time in the kitchen and a bit more time on the practice range.

But after tasting his first success on the PGA Tour with a maiden career win at the Buick Open on Sunday, the 34-year-old American said he plans to use some of the $882,000 winner's check on some new pots and pans.

"I'm a fairly simple guy," Bateman told reporters. "If there's one thing that parallels golf as much as I love being out here, I love to be in the kitchen.

"I spend a lot of time in the kitchen. I spend a lot of time watching the Food Network and I collect cook books.

"I probably cook four or five nights a week. I'm always looking for a new recipe to try.

"I'll invest in a few pots and pans, although I pretty much have every one in the catalogue." Finding the winning recipe on the golf course has taken Bateman six years.

While always believing he had the right ingredients to be a winner on the PGA Tour, Bateman had difficulty finding the right measures. Sometimes he was a little short of confidence and other times a little too anxious.

At the Buick he got the balance just right, rolling in a pressure-packed 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a one-shot victory over Jason Gore and former-champions Justin Leonard and Woody Austin. *Reuters*

BRIAN Bateman reacts after sinking his winning birdie putt on 18. AP

Yi-led Chinese bow to US teens

DALLAS, TEXAS—TAJUAN PORTER scored 20 points and Stephen Curry added 16 to lead the US under-19 team over China 91-75 in an exhibition here Sunday that featured China's newest NBA player, Yi Jianlian.

Yi scored 15 points, 14 of them in the fourth quarter. He sank 3-of-8 shots from the field and 8-of-12 free throws, and grabbed eight rebounds for the Chinese squad, which was without Houston Rockets superstar center Yao Ming.

Yi was selected sixth overall last Thursday by the Milwaukee Bucks in the National Basketball Association Draft.

Zhu Fangyu led China with 20 points and Liu wei added 12 with Wang Zhizhi, China's first NBA player, had eight points and five rebounds for a Chinese unit that will spend July facing NBA talent in practice games at Las Vegas.

The US teens, who will compete in the world championships July 12-22 in Serbia, played their first game just a day after the final roster was selected.

"They respected China but they certainly didn't fear them because they all have played against good teams," US coach Jerry Wainwright said.

"For never going against a zone I thought we did a pretty good job. We got in gaps and our guards are so quick we could penetrate. Tajuan and Stephen played really well." *AFP*

YI Jianlian: NBA-bound AFP

Mariners win 8th in row as manager quits

SEATTLE—THE SEATTLE MARINERS RESponded to their manager's shock resignation with an eighth consecutive victory on Sunday.

Jose Guillen homered and then drove in the winning run with a ninth-inning single as the Mariners defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 2-1, just hours after manager Mike Hargrove had said he was quitting at the end of the game.

"I really wanted to get this win for him, so badly," Guillen told reporters. "I'm just happy for him that he can just leave with a win and go home happy."

The 57-year-old Hargrove told the Mariners of his decision in a clubhouse meeting before the game.

"Over the past several weeks, I have come to the realisation that to be fair to myself and the team, I can not continue to do this job if my passion has begun to fade," he said in a statement.

Hargrove had been the Mariners manager since October 2004.

Bench coach John McLaren will succeed him.

John Lackey won his 11th game by pitching a four-hitter for seven-plus innings in the Los Angeles Angels' 4-3 road win over the Baltimore Orioles. Mike Napoli's eighth-inning home run proved to be the game-winner for the Angels, who scored three runs in the fourth inning.

The Oakland Athletics scored seven runs in the second inning off New York starter Andy Pettitte and beat the Yankees, 11-5. *Reuters*

Bonds clinches Major League all-star berth

SAN FRANCISCO—CONTROVERSIAL outfielder Barry Bonds, who is six home runs shy of breaking Hank Aaron's all-time US home run record, was elected to a starting spot in the 78th Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Fan and player voting revealed Sunday for the annual mid-season showdown between National League and American League heroes saw Bonds claim the final NL outfield starting job with 2,325,391 votes to 2,202,513 for Alfonso Soriano.

Bonds has denied accusations of doping despite links to the BALCO steroid scandal, faces a probe on possible perjury and tax charges and hears boos from fans in ballparks outside of San Francisco, site of the July 10 all-star game.

Bonds trailed Soriano by nearly 120,000 votes in balloting released last week but scored enough at the finish to edge the Dominican star of the Chicago Cubs, who will be a reserve.

BARRY Bonds: Late surge AP

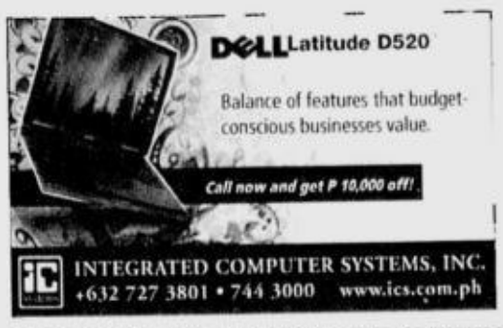
The New York Mets placed three players on the starting NL lineup, with shortstop Jose Reyes and third baseman David Wright joined by outfielder Carlos Beltran. Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. will also join Bonds in the outfield.

Bonds will make his 14th all-star appearance while Beltran makes his third all-star start in a row. Griffey, 37, led all NL players with 2,986,818 votes. Griffey and Bonds will make their first all-star appearances since 2004. Other NL starters include Milwaukee first baseman Prince Fielder and catcher Russ Martin of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley.

Fielder leads the NL with 27 homers, 11 more than Bonds, who cannot advance his quest for Aaron's mark in the exhibition showdown that decides which league will have a home-field advantage in October's best-of-seven World Series final.

NL pitchers include San Diego's Jake Peavy and Trevor Hoffman, Milwaukee's Ben Sheets and Francisco Cordero, Atlanta's John Smoltz, the Mets' Billy Wagner and two from the Dodgers, Brad Penny and Japan's Takashi Saito.

New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez led all vote recipients with 3,890,515 with teammate Derek Jeter taking the American League starting shortstop spot next to him with the second-best total, 3,199,571. *AFP*



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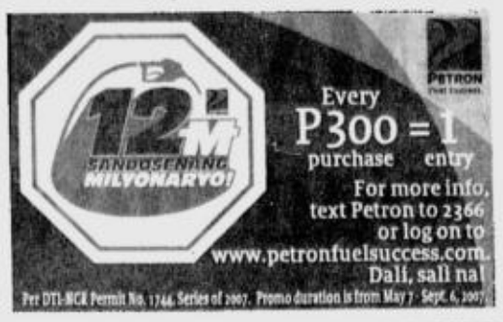

RP's fiscal situation 'very serious'–Teves

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap (right) inspect the fish products being sold at the Barangay Kristong Hari Food Terminal in Quezon City. The Kristong Hari Food Terminal is one of the 14 food terminals operating under the Department of Agriculture which seeks to bring high quality agri-products to metropolis consumers at very low cost and will benefit 10,000 families and residents of Barangay Kristong Hari, Kalusugan, and Roxas. Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte accompanied President Arroyo and Sec. Yap during their visit.

Acting BIR chief vows reforms

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE FAILURE OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) to meet collection goals in the first half of 2007 has weakened the government's finances with no less than the economic recovery at stake, according to the Department of Finance.

In a speech on Monday, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves exhorted the BIR's revenue district officers to redouble their efforts to collect more taxes or risk losing the business sector's newly found confidence.

"We have a very serious situation," he said. "We face a tremendous challenge."

Teves made his remarks at the induction ceremonies for new BIR officer in charge Lilian B. Hefti, who has taken over the reins of the government's biggest revenue agency after her predecessor, Jose Mario Buñag, was sacked for failing to meet collection goals in the first five months of 2007.

"Since the BIR accounts for more than 70 percent of government revenues, [its] collection performance is closely monitored not just by the financial markets domestically, but by international observers as well," he said.

The tax agency's shortfall has already pushed up the government's benchmark Treasury bill rate during yesterday's auction *(See story on this page)*. Banks bid up the rates in anticipation of greater demand for cash to fund the ambitious spending program of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While encouraging BIR officials to collect more taxes, the Finance chief also took a swipe at the agency's declining efficiency, which became evident in the first half of the year, despite the boost provided by the Reformed Value-Added Tax law.

"If you compare the BIR's revenue collection performance with that [of] other countries in the region, you will see that we still have a long way to go, and therefore [must] exert more effort to improve ourselves," he said.

In her acceptance speech, Hefti immediately adopted a reformist stance and laid out a list of measures meant to improve the agen-

RP'S FISCAL/ B2

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BREAKTIME

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Marubeni eyes Ambuklao, Binga facilities

By Abigail L. Ho

KEEN ON FURTHER EXPANDING ITS presence in the country, Japanese firm Marubeni Corp. is looking at bidding for the National Power Corp.'s Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package.

Federico Puno, president of San Roque Power Corp., a company that is majority-owned by Marubeni and a subsidiary, Sithe Philippines Holdings Inc., said it would make good sense for the Japanese firm to own that plant package since it would complement the San Roque multipurpose project in Pangasinan.

"We're looking at bidding for Ambuklao-Binga since those are upstream plants to San Roque. If we control those upstream plants, we will probably have more efficient utilization of water. But that is still under consideration. We have not yet made a decision," he said.

In an earlier interview, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. president Jose Ibazeta said bidding for the Ambuklao-Binga package would likely take place within the year, after the auction for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc and 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plants.

Apart from Marubeni, other entities that

MARUBENI / B2

Fiscal fears push T-bill rates higher

THE GOVERNMENT'S BENCHMARK BORrowing rate rose sharply during yesterday's treasury bill auction as banks—spooked by weak tax collections—sought higher returns on their funds.

The yield on the 91-day bill rate spiked higher to 3.477 percent, representing an increase of almost half a percentage point from the previous rate of 2.996 percent.

The Bureau of the Treasury made a full award of P5 billion for all three tenors, with banks submitting bids thrice over what was on offer in the first treasury bill auction held since May 15.

The rates set during periodic treasury auctions are used by banks as a guide for pricing their commercial loans.

Acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan acknowledged that concerns over the Bureau of Internal Revenue's missed tax collection targets were helping push interest rates higher.

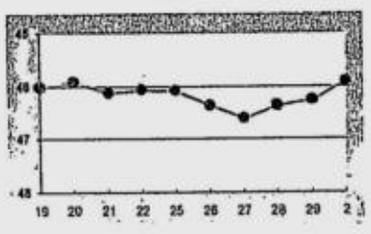
He noted, however, that easing concerns about the possibility of higher inflation coupled with the high level of liquidity in the financial system have mitigated upward pressure on interest rates.

"On the domestic side, the mopping-up operations of the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) is taking effect in terms of restraining domestic liquidity [growth]," Tan said.

He allayed fears of higher rates due to the fiscal situation, saying the Department of Finance was "addressing very strongly" the issue of poor tax collections by improving collection efficiency and speeding up the privatization of state assets.

FISCAL/ B3

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.905 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 2, 2007

¥122.70 = $1

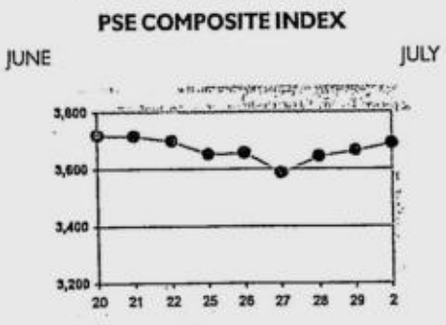
As of 5 p.m., July 2, 2007

GOLD: $647.90-648.40

per ounce Hong Kong, June 29, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.72-percent higher yesterday, extending gains to a third day, with the financials in focus on hopes for consolidation in the banking sector, dealers said.

They said that with the market at near record highs, there was some profit-taking in the smaller stocks.

The composite index advanced 26.45 points to 3,691.68, near the day's peak of 3,697.55. The broader all-share index bounced back in late trade to edge up 3.66 points or 0.15 percent to 2,364.81.

Decliners led gainers 114 to 31, with 26 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 4.4 billion shares worth P4.6 billion.

"Financial issues led gains with talk of more mergers," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

He said the completion of the consolidation between Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and

STOCKS/ B2

Asian central bank seen as key to stability

ASIAN COUNTRIES SAID YESTERDAY THEY were in a better position now to deal with the sort of financial meltdown that crippled the region 10 years ago, but warned against complacency.

Taking a swipe against the powerful Western-dominated global lenders, such as the International Monetary Fund, Thailand's finance minister called for Asia to take more control of its financial destiny by setting up a monetary fund to promote exchange rate stability.

Since the crisis, Asian central banks have built up trillions of dollars in foreign exchange reserves, much of it invested in western assets such as US government debt, putting it in pole position to lead the international financial community, Chalongphob Sussangkarn said.

"Looking ahead, we need to take responsibility. Asia now needs to be the one to manage the global financial system," he said.

"We cannot let debtor nations manage the global financial system. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is more like a debtor monetary organization, we need a creditor monetary organization," he said.

Economic chiefs past and present struck a defiant note at a forum in Manila to mark the 10th anniversary of the crisis, triggered when a huge flight of capital toppled the overvalued Thai baht in July 1997.

The crisis spread rapidly from Thailand to South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Asset prices plummeted, companies collapsed under a weight of debt, governments fell and

ASIAN / B3

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GMA 7 starts int'l roadshow to raise P7.8B from stock offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Public offer set July 17-24

GMA NETWORK INC., THE COUNtry's most profitable network, kick-started an international roadshow to five key international cities yesterday in a bid to raise as much as P7.8 billion from a public stock offering at the end of the month.

GMA Network executive vice president Gilberto Duavit Jr. said in an interview that a roadshow would be conducted until July 13 to Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Boston and New York.

A domestic offer is set from July 17 to 24 while the listing is set on July 30.

Out of the total offer, 70 percent will be given to international investors while 30 percent will be allocated to domestic investors, according to Roberto Benares, managing director of domestic underwriter ATR Kim Eng Capital.

In documents earlier filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), GMA Network had said it planned to offer 91.35 million common shares at roughly between P7 and P8.50 apiece.

GMA Holdings Inc., a new corporation organized in the Philippines to issue Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs), planned to sell 822.115 million PDRs.

PDRs are shares that have economic benefits such as cash, stock or property dividends, but none of its voting powers. It also grants the right to its holder to the delivery or sale of a corresponding amount of common shares. The PDRs are proposed as a tool to generate interest among institutional investors.

Out of the total cash proceeds, roughly P1.5 billion will be raised from a primary offering while the rest, from a secondary sale of shares.

Proceeds from the IPO will be used to fund the company's expansion, which involves the completion of new television studios, originating stations in the provinces such as Dagupan and Naga (which will produce programming catering to five key regional dialects), and setting up a second international channel, GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon said.

PACIFIC SUGAR GROUP

FDC buys sugar firms for ₱10.76B

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP. (FDC) is dipping its hands into the manufacturing business with the acquisition of 100 percent of Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp. for P10.76 billion from Andrew L. Gotianun (ALG) Holdings Corp., the owner of Pacific Sugar and the private holding firm of the property magnate.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FDC said its board approved the agreement with ALG wherein FDC will issue 1.55 billion shares to ALG. The value of the shares is estimated at P10 a share.

ALG is the parent firm of FDC since it owns 70.52 percent in the holding firm. FDC has interests in property development and banking.

With the acquisition, FDC hopes to broaden its revenue base, sources said.

Pacific Sugar owns sugar milling and refinery companies Cotabato Sugar Central Co. Inc. and Davao Sugar Central Co. Inc., as well as sugar planting firm High Yield Sugar Farms Corp.

The valuation of Pacific Sugar's sugar operations was performed by Manabat Sanagustin & Co., a member of the group led by auditing firm KPMG.

As part of the deal, ALG will receive 1.55 billion FDC shares, translating to an effective price of P10.76 billion or a discount of 30.8 percent to the independent valuation of the three companies. The price also represented a 44.5-percent premium over FDC's 15-day volume-weighted average price from June 7 to 28 at P6.92 a share.

The PSE said it implemented a trading suspension on the shares of FDC yesterday pending disclosure of the terms of the deal.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BPI sells ₱3.6-B bad loans to US bank

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS said yesterday it has completed the sale of P3.6 billion worth of soured loans to Bank of America N.A.

This is the fourth time the bank has sold nonperforming loans since it first took advantage of the special purpose vehicle (SPV) law in 2004.

BPI vice president Cecilia Tanchoco said in a disclosure that the deal was consummated only a week after both parties signed a sale and purchase agreement, which reflected the transparent and harmonious conduct of negotiations.

"The swift conclusion of the sale marks another milestone for BPI as it continually addresses the resolution of its nonperforming assets. This remains to be a priority as the bank strives to further enhance asset quality, strengthen the balance sheet and be in a position to take advantage of growth opportunities in the future," Tanchoco said.

In 2004, BPI sold to Morgan Stanley its first tranche of NPLs valued at P8.6 billion.

This was followed by the sale of another tranche worth P2.4 billion in 2005, and another P6.3 billion worth last year, both to Avenue Capital Group, a major player in the distressed assets markets in the United States and in Asia.

BPI's consolidated nonperforming loans stood at nearly P15 billion or 5.5 percent of total loans as of the first quarter. Industry sources estimated that with the recent P3.6-billion sale, BPI's NPL ratio could come down below 5 percent.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

RP's fiscal situation 'very serious'—Teves

From page B1

cy's efficiency.

In particular, the new BIR chief zeroed in on improving tax collection efficiency, which was widely cited as the reason for her predecessor's removal from the post.

"Given the constantly evolving economic landscape, the ever growing needs of both government and the taxpaying public and the emerging complexity of business transactions, the bureau must continue to explore new ways to improve the quality of tax administration," she said.

The new measures include a review of all rulings granting tax exemptions and preferential treatment to certain corporate taxpayers; the possible implementation of regulations that were suspended in the past; intensifying the development of tax evasion cases, and the checking of compliance with withholding tax rules by the country's top 1,000 corporations.

Hefti said she would also check the withholding tax payments of expatriates working in the Philippines and prohibit BIR officials from issuing unnumbered rulings, which have been the source of graft in the past.

Other measures include an audit of 2006 internal revenue tax liabilities; the computer matching of figures of withholding agents with the reported figures of income recipients; and the close monitoring of taxpayers with declining tax payments.

Preliminary documents from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) as of June 27 showed that the taxes collected by the agency for the month amounted to only P36.9 billion, still P19.62 billion lower than the target of P56.52 billion for June.

The tax collections likewise represented a P10.92-billion drop from the P47.82 billion recorded in the same month last year. For January to June, total tax collections amounted to P307.44 billion, representing a P7.59-billion increase from P299.85 billion a year ago. However, compared to the P352.69-billion target for the period, the six-month collections were already short by P45.25 billion.

Marubeni ...

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have expressed interest in the hydropower plant package included the Lopezes' First Gen Corp. and the Aboitizes' SN Aboitiz Power Inc.

Ibazeta said PSALM planned to raise the existing 11-percent privatization level to 50 percent by year's end and to 70 percent by end-2008.

To do this, he said the government agency was looking at selling the remaining Napocor generation assets by portfolio instead of individually.

The government agency has so far raised $436 million from partial payments for the plants that it has sold since 2004. Total proceeds should be $664 million, once all plants have been fully paid.

PSALM would be auctioning off the Masinloc plant on July 26 and the Calaca plant some time before the year ends.

Auction for the Ambuklao-Binga package as well as some geothermal facilities should also take place within 2007, if feasible, Ibazeta said.

Speaking for TeaM Energy Corp., in which he is president and chief executive, Puno said the company was not interested in bidding for the Masinloc plant since it would compete with its 1,200-MW Sual plant in Pangasinan.

CURRENCIES

July 2, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.738880	1.000000	46.2460
Japan	Yen	0.005998	0.008118	0.3754
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483745	2.008100	92.8666
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094512	0.127913	5.9155
Switzerland	Franc	0.604450	0.818063	37.8321
Canada	Dollar	0.693784	0.938967	43.4235
Singapore	Dollar	0.482581	0.653125	30.2044
Australia	Dollar	0.627179	0.848824	39.2547
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.960101	2.652801	122.6814
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.197024	0.266652	12.3316
Brunei	Dollar	0.481010	0.650999	30.1061
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023236	0.031447	1.4543
UAE	Dirham	0.201176	0.272272	12.5915
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.353400	62.5893
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.001083	0.0501
China	Yuan**	0.097053	0.131351	6.0745
Argentina	Peso	0.239314	0.323887	14.9785
Brazil	Real	0.383734	0.519346	24.0177
Denmark	Kroner	0.134381	0.181871	8.4108
India	Rupee	0.018208	0.024643	1.1396
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214168	0.289855	13.4046
Mexico	New Peso	0.068402	0.092575	4.2812
New Zealand	Dollar	0.570652	0.772320	35.7167
South Africa	Rand	0.104913	0.141989	6.5664
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022571	0.030548	1.4127

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 29, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of June 29, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 2, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	183,900
72.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	68.5	72.5	68.5	71.5	1,801,800
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69	72	69	72	1,736,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	920	920	915	915	4,610
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	1,700,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	71.5	73	70	72.5	2,088,600
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	60	60	59.5	59.5	44,100
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	65	66	65	66	38,000
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35	35.5	35	35	1,881,400
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	83.5	86	83.5	86	465,600
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62	62.5	62	62.5	252,100
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	5	5	4.85	5	221,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.16	1.18	938,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	1,582,000
8.8	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	97,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Hldg Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.22	1,710,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,680.00	1,680.00	1,680.00	1,680.00	450
5	4.05	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.4	5,076,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	46,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	855	860	840	845	10,380
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	660
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	5,662,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	68	68	66.5	66.5	182,300
91.5	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	90	91.5	90	90.5	1,417,400
12.75	7.3	Manila Water Company Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	9,228,800
116	14.5	Manila Electric Company A	113	116	111	111	261,980
118	22	Manila Electric Company B	115	118	111	113	2,069,130
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	16,339,000
5.8	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	8,029,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.46	1,250,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	50,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.24	2.24	649,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	11,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	52.5	53.5	433,400
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	169,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.75	363,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	75	75	73.5	73.5	187,200
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. B	81.5	82.5	81.5	82	719,200
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	90,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18.25	603,400
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.35	0.35	5,510,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.41	EEI Corp.	5.6	6	5.5	6	910,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	18,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	48,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Hldg Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	756,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	1,736,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	31,000
1.2	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. B	0.61	1	0.61	1	30,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	349,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.32	25,860,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings	1	1	1	1	29,00
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	138,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.115	0.12	136,250,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.14	0.97	1.04	41,997,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2	2	1.76	1.8	3,581,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2	2	2	2	5,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	362,100,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	4,200,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	9,168,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.016	437,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	67,785,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Cons Resources Inc.	1.2	1.2	0.98	1.06	767,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.28	2.32	2,620,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4	3.9	3.9	13,000
16	5.6	Atok-Big Wedge Company Inc. B	10	10	10	10	1,000
590	304.17	Ayala Corp.	540	545	540	545	378,310
13.25	6.96	Bacnotan Cons Industries Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	15,000
6.9	0.7	Balabac Res and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.4	4.45	80,000
5.5	1.02	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.3	8,579,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.7	9.3	9.5	1,641,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Princ.e Holdings Corp. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	210,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	382,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	12.75	12	12.75	511,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	30,000
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.55	0.47	0.47	1,370,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.68	0.68	190,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	23.5	23.75	19.75	21.25	2,520,200
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.1	9.1	7.1	7.4	14,113,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	264,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.032	0.033	0.03	0.03	86,400,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.9	0.9	155,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.48	0.5	7,420,000
442.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	425	442.5	425	442.5	167,840
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.58	180,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.49	0.54	51,910,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.78	0.78	810,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.38	1.38	641,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.35	0.35	17,710,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.58	0.58	1,040,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	146,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	570,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17	17	30,758,900
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	3,649,000
4.7	1.96	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	150,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	68,000
0.85	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.73	0.76	8,260,000
0.83	0.17	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.47	0.5	11,780,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3	3	124,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	24,470,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Res and Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.24	0.25	43,990,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.1	9,815,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.14	2.14	47,033,000
0.41	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.34	0.34	0.27	0.28	6,260,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.34	0.34	0.28	0.3	4,000,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.95	187,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.44	2,500,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.85	0.89	4,450,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	3.95	4	25,521,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	30,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.35	0.41	6,680,000
0.87	0.25	Phil Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.63	0.65	8,400,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.2	245,000
23	10.25	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	20	19.5	19.5	1,600,300
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	1,723,000
12.5	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.5	10,796,100
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.86	0.9	2,910,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.24	0.245	6,820,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	7.2	7.2	6.3	6.4	4,062,000
		MEDIA					
34	15	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	17,500
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	28,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.62	1,646,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,360.00	1,340.00	1,350.00	16,280
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,650.00	2,660.00	2,645.00	2,650.00	193,010
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.7	7	6.7	7	7,675,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	12,720,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11	12	11	11.5	194,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.044	0.046	45,300,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.08	2.08	477,000
0.185	0.04	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.1	0.1	62,280,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.0575	287,000,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	3.2	3.2	2	2.02	35,520,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.72	1.8	69,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	29.5	28.5	29	786,000
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	610,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.68	182,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	856,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.62	0.7	550,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	340,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	9,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	131,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	25	25	25	25	3,000
5.3	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.85	1,906,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.5	14	14.5	450,700
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	24.5	24.5	24	24.5	17,700
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	359,300,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	150,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	74,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16.25	16.25	15	15.5	1,770,700
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	12	12	12	12	3,400
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.05	4.05	4	4	170,000
3.05	0.0646	GEOGRACE Resources Phil Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.42	2.5	61,856,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	34,800,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	11,850,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	131,200,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.035	0.035	0.033	0.034	154,300,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	1,200,300,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	4,665,000
31	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	29	31	28.5	30.5	683,500
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.9	0.9	2,954,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.22	1.26	3,824,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	2,010,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	137,300,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	55,100,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	149,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	218,300,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Stocks end higher

From page B1

Banco de Oro Universal Bank in particular encouraged buying.

"News of a possible merger between Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank means building a stronger financial base and this makes investors bullish about the banking sector," added Tan.

Elsewhere, smaller stocks were hit by profit-taking as investors cashed in on recent gains to prepare for forthcoming public offerings, said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"Favored second- and third-line issues that went up fast recently experienced selloffs," he said.

In the banks, Bank of the Philippine Islands rose P3.50 to P72. Banco de Oro-EPCI added P2 at P71.50 while Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. closed a peso higher at P72.50. *AFP*

Asia stocks reported to have firmed up

Japanese survey result dispels talk of rate hike in July

SINGAPORE—MAJOR ASIAN STOCK MARkets mostly firmed on Monday, with Seoul rising one percent as brokerages gained, while the yen held near recent lows after a Bank of Japan survey underscored the case for an interest rate hike in August.

The BOJ tankan survey confirmed sluggishness in some areas of Japan's recovery, dispelling any talk of a rate hike this month.

"At the same time, the survey was not weak enough to scale back expectations for a BOJ rate hike in August," said Masaki Fukui, senior market economist at Mizuho Corporate Bank.

European markets were braced for a sharply lower open, taking their cue from a weak Wall Street performance on Friday when worries over tightening credit and the subprime mortgage market dragged stocks lower.

Spread betters in London expected both the FTSE 100 index and the CAC 40 index to open down as much as 45 points with the DAX down around 60 points.

But stock indexes in Asia recovered poise, with South Korea's Kospi starring with a 1.6-percent rise, boosted by gains in brokerages, such as Samsung Securities and Woori Investment & Securities.

Shipbuilders also climbed, led by Samsung Heavy Industries Co., which rose 1.99 percent to 46,100 won on lucrative drillship orders won since Friday.

Japan's Nikkei average managed to claw back a small gain, ending 0.04 percent higher at 18,146.3 points, as rising securities houses offset a drop in department store chain Takashimaya following news of a 12-percent fall in quarterly operating profit.

In Australia the S&P/ASX 200 index ended down 0.2 percent, while Hong Kong also fell.

Japanese government bonds eased back from an earlier high as the June tankan survey generally matched forecasts. The tankan results came after Friday's soft reading on Tokyo consumer prices helped beef up expectations the BOJ would stick to a gradual pace of lifting interest rates and dispelled talk of a rate hike this month.

By 0614 GMT September futures were down 0.11 points at 131.90, having earlier climbed to their highest level since early June.

The benchmark 10-year yield rose 1.5 basis point to 1.885 percent.

US Treasuries slipped in Asian trade as investors waited on monthly factory data later in the session for more evidence of the economy's recovery. *Reuters*

iPhone activation woes continue

SAN FRANCISCO—WHILE BLOGS continue to simmer with complaints from people who waited months to buy an iPhone and now are experiencing problems activating it, AT&T Inc. said the situation has improved.

"We are working on any issues on an individual basis with customers who were impacted," said Michael Coe, a spokesperson for AT&T, the Apple Inc. device's exclusive carrier.

Nearly all customers have been able to activate their phones within five to eight minutes, he said Sunday.

Without activation, not even the phone's alarm clock works, leading some unhappy customers to joke that their inactive iPhones are little more than expensive paperweights.

AT&T attributed the problems to overloaded servers as large number of customers tried to activate their phones over the weekend. After being hit with the initial onslaught, AT&T made technical adjustments to its activation system so that new users would not face the same delays, Coe said.

Customers with corporate accounts might also experience delays because AT&T needs authorization from the telecommunications manager at their company to switch them to an individual account, he said.

Timothy Johnson, 36, of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, said his phone was activated Sunday afternoon, about two days after he bought it.

"The experience of the activation is unacceptable," Johnson said. "It all just reeks of ill-preparedness to me."

Johnson said he was happy with the iPhone and credited Apple for acknowledging the problem. But he expressed concern about the type of service he would get from AT&T in the future.

Rob Enderle, an industry analyst with The Enderle Group, said the activation problems probably won't hurt iPhone sales.

"This kind of thing is not unusual when you have this number of people trying to buy something all at once," Enderle said.

Depending on how the companies handle customer's complaints, it could in fact help, he said. If customers feel the company has treated them well, they are more likely to buy and recommend its products in the future.

"It doesn't matter whether your product breaks or not," Enderle said. "It matters how well you treat your customers."

The iPhone, which also serves as an iPod media player and a wireless web device, went on sale Friday evening after months of anticipation. Thousands of people lined up in front of Apple and AT&T stores across the country to be among the first to get one.

Apple has been updating its website nightly to report which of its stores have iPhones in stock. Nearly all AT&T stores have sold out, Coe said.

Apple would not provide details about iPhone sales figures or customer activation problems, but a spokesperson said the company was working hard to resolve any issues.

"There are a small percentage of iPhone customers who have had a less than perfect activation experience," said Apple spokesperson Natalie Kerris.

Customers can activate the phones by logging on to Apple's iTunes software from their computers. Although many customers said they experienced no delays, others received a message saying activation "will take some additional time."

Many buyers said their troubles began when they tried to switch from their current cell phone provider to AT&T. The activation problem has affected both existing AT&T wireless customers and those signing up from another cell phone carrier, Coe said.

As of Sunday afternoon, eBay Inc. said more than 2,700 iPhones had been sold on the online auction site at an average price of $740.18 (euro548.08). The iPhone retails for $499 (euro370) for the 4-gigabyte version and $599 (euro445) for the 8-gigabyte model. *AP*

Oil price begin to steady at $71 a barrel

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES STEADIED ON Monday as traders looked ahead to a recovery in US refinery use to offset declining gasoline stockpiles.

London Brent crude traded 3 cents higher at $71.44 a barrel by 0718 GMT, after gaining 89 cents on Friday. US light crude eased 4 cents to $70.64, after a $1.11 rally on Friday to the highest settlement since August 2006.

Oil traders worried about geopolitical supply risks saw London's Heathrow airport and New York's JFK terminal reopened on Sunday after bomb scares, following an explosion at a Scottish airport on Saturday and failed car bombing attempts in London.

"We can see some profit-taking after short covering brought the market up to $71," said Ken Hasegawa at Himiwari CX in Tokyo. "The market will be rangebound until the US holiday."

The US Independence Day holiday on July 4 will delay until Thursday weekly US inventory data, in which some analysts expect to see higher US fuel production after several plants returned from maintenance.

ConocoPhillips planned to begin a restart of a gasoline-making unit in Texas on Friday, while two crude units at a BP refinery in Indiana, the country's fifth biggest, will reach full rates within two to three weeks after a fire slashed output in April.

A series of outages in the world's top consumer has helped drive down gasoline stockpiles during peak summer demand, though crude stockpiles have risen to nine-year highs despite Opec production cuts.

Oil market speculators trimmed their exposure to rising prices in the week to June 26. *Reuters*

Nissan Motor beefs up quality, defect response

ATSUGI, JAPAN—DEFECTS AREN'T something automakers usually like to spotlight. But Nissan's new facility, shown to reporters Monday, does just that.

Panel photos of cars that had caught fire and an exhibition of other examples of problems are among the features of Nissan Motor Co.'s Field Quality Center, which opened last month in this town just west of Tokyo.

The center also includes special simulator machinery that recreates rocky and swerving road conditions to test vehicles indoors for problems. It also houses a huge storage area where some 150 problem parts are brought in a day from dealers for study.

At a time global sales are sliding, Nissan is investing 900 million yen (US$7.3 million) in the center, which brings suppliers and developers under one roof to speed up response to defects and improve quality. In the past, Nissan did not have a central location where such problems were handled.

"Transparency about defects is crucial," said Takashi Terada, general manager overseeing quality. "We are that confident about our quality."

One problem is that globalization has necessitated contracts with dubious suppliers, particularly in China, where automakers are rushing to meet growing demand.

When suppliers were closely examined, company researchers found that about a fifth of suppliers in China fell short of Nissan's standards and all future business with them had to be halted, according to the Tokyo-based manufacturer.

In one demonstration to reporters, a worker put a fiberscope, with a tiny camera at the end, to peek inside an engine to look for problems.

Nissan hopes to halve the time needed to deal with defects by the next three years, officials said.

Nissan has recently opened three other product defect testing centers, including two in the US, at Smyrna, Tennessee, and Farmington Hills, Michigan, and another in Cranfield, Great Britain.

"Quality is an eternal challenge with no end, and no shortcuts," said Nissan senior vice president Kazumasa Katoh. "Whenever a problem arises, we will potentially lose our customers. They will never want to buy that brand again."

The Field Quality Center is part of several new buildings Nissan has set up recently, including one for developing technology and another for training workers. *AP*

Asian central bank ...

From page B1

millions were pushed into poverty as investors withdrew their investments.

Analysts say Asia's economies are now in much better shape.

Most countries have competitive currencies and a big surplus in their current accounts, which measure their trade in goods and services with the rest of the world.

That has made the region a huge exporter of capital, bankrolling consumption and borrowing in rich nations.

Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the Asian Development Bank, said this global economic imbalance could provide the ingredients for market volatility.

"We have the potential for more bouts of financial market volatility," the host of the forum said.

Legacy

"Capital flows have ramped up significantly over the past several years as increased global liquidity, Asia's economic resurgence and dynamism, along with the search for yield has drawn in and out large amounts of investment capital."

The IMF stepped in with multibillion-dollar rescue packages to keep some of these economies afloat. But the policies it imposed in exchange for the rescues were heavily criticized by Asian policy makers as excessive.

Within a year of the meltdown, Indonesia's long-ruling President Suharto was out of power after the crisis sparked widespread rioting in his nation.

Governments changed in South Korea and Thailand.

Chalongphob says an East Asian monetary fund would help promote further stability in the region.

In an interview with Reuters on Sunday, he suggested such a fund would be established within five years to coordinate a self-managed regional system of foreign exchange reserves that was agreed upon in May.

Duck-Koo Chung, a former minister of commerce, industry and energy in South Korea, agreed the region needed a monetary organization but cautioned that the question of which country should lead such a fund still had to be ironed out.

"We need some political agreement first," Chung said.

Asia is booming once again, but investment and growth are largely centered on China and India.

Economic growth rates in many of the erstwhile "Tiger Economies" lag their pre-crisis levels.

Roberto de Ocampo, a former Philippine finance secretary, said the region should speed up cooperation and integration to stave off a future crisis, whether it comes from capital shocks or large global imbalances.

"Mobilization of Asian financial clout to further Asian financial integration was your best antidote for keeping a further crisis at bay." *Reuters*

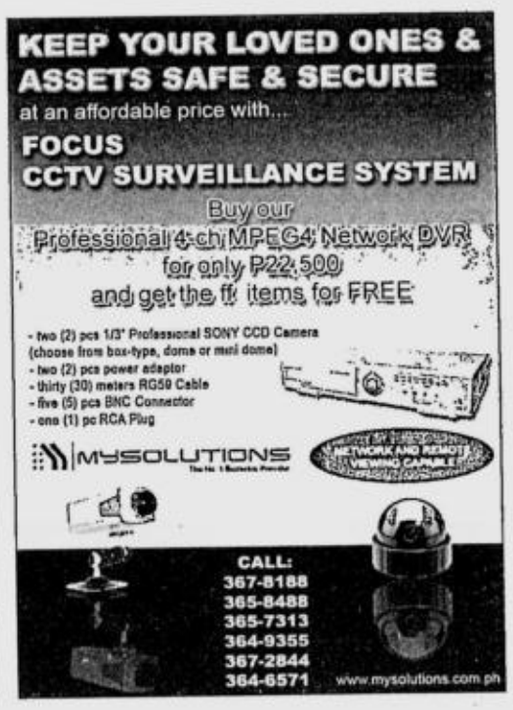
Fiscal fears ...

From page B1

The acting treasury chief said he saw no need to adjust the government's borrowing plan for the rest of the year. This came as Malacañang said it had no plans of reducing spending in the second half of the year—putting the onus squarely on the Finance Department's agencies to fund the additional infrastructure spending.

For the 182-day treasury bills, the rate rose to 4.639 percent from 4.274 percent in the previous auction, representing an increase of 36.5 basis points, while the 364-day rate settled at 5.438 percent from 5.174 percent, rising by 26.4 basis points.

Tan expressed confidence that treasury bill rates would remain relatively low, partly because of what he described as the government's "healthy cash position." *Daxim L. Lucas*



NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE DEPUTIES NAMED

ALONSO L. TAN
Luzon

DIONISIO R. ESTEBAN, JR.
Visayas

SOFRONIO R. CRUZ
Mindanao

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, leader of the almost two (2) million members of the Knights of Columbus worldwide, who is based in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, recently appointed three (3) new State Deputies for the Philippines effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. The three (3) new State Deputies are ALONSO L. TAN for Luzon Jurisdiction, DIONISIO R. ESTEBAN, JR. for the Visayas Jurisdiction and SOFRONIO R. CRUZ for the Mindanao Jurisdiction.

The Knights of Columbus is an international organization of Catholic men and is guided by the cardinal principles of CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY and PATRIOTISM. It undertakes program for the CHURCH, COMMUNITY, its COUNCILS, FAMILY, and the YOUTH.

The Knights of Columbus in the Philippines has a unique fraternal benefits program for the Knights and Families. This mutual benefit system is being handled by Knights of Columbus Fraternal Association of the Philippines, Inc. (KCFAPI).

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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Abueva chairs ArtPetron 7 board of judges

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ARTIST NAPOLEON Abueva will once again chair ArtPetron 7, the nationwide student art competition of oil-industry leader Petron Corp. Popularly acknowledged as the 'father of modern Philippine sculpture', Abueva continues to play a major role in the Philippine world of art.

Winners in the painting and photography categories will be selected by an elite corps of judges who are either respected artists in their own right or are respected members of the art community: Felice P. Sta. Maria of the Unesco and former president of the board of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum in Manila; Hon. Benedicto R. Cabrera, national artist for visual arts; Juvenal Sanso, internationally-renowned printmaker and painter; Mauro "Malang" Santos, very popular and prolific master painter; professor Roberto B. Feleo of the department of studio arts, college of fine arts, University of the Philippines-Diliman; Wig Tysmans, master photographer and chair of ArtPetron's photography category; George Tapan, one of the country's famous travel photographers; Romeo V. Vitug, respected cinematographer; Paulo G. Alcazaren, famous landscape architect and heritage conservationist; Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, president and CEO of the Philippine Daily Inquirer; Edwin Tuyay, renowned photojournalist with covers for Asiaweek, Newsweek, Time, and Readers' Digest among his credits; Ed Arcilla, commercial photographer who has won competitions here and abroad.

The annual nationwide art competition of Petron Corp, ArtPetron aims to promote Philippine art, culture, tradition and values to the Filipino youth. This painting/photography contest is open to students 15 to 28 years old who are enrolled in a regular college or university fine arts course or in a museum-based or private tutorial art program. There are three categories: oil/acrylic, watercolor/water-based media; and black and white photography. Contest entries should feature landmarks such as lighthouses, bridges, monuments, parks, town halls and other historic places around the country that have existed for over 50 years.

Aside from a cash prize of P50,000, the six first prize winners in the painting category will also receive an ArtPetron trophy sculpted by national artist and chair of ArtPetron board of judges Napoleon Abueva. A cash prize of P30,000 will be awarded to each of the six first prize winners in the photography category along with an ArtPetron trophy.

Application forms are available at the president's or fine arts deans' office in all schools and universities, participating Petron service stations and bulk plants nationwide, the ArtPetron Secretariat office (c/o Studio5 Designs, 28 Paseo de Roxas cor. Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City), and at the website www.artpetron.com. Deadline of entries is July 26, if submitted to Petron bulk plants nationwide and Aug. 2, if submitted to the ArtPetron Secretariat Office. Awarding ceremonies will be on Aug. 30.

PARTNER KO, ALAGA KO

Last June 23, the Inquirer facilitated its 2nd of 7 medical missions to its partner newspaper vendors stationed in A. Bonifacio and C3 area. Through its advocacy partners, Unilab, volunteer doctors and student nurses, the mission was able to provide free consultations and medicines to 150 news vendors and their families. This program was launched June 16 and will continue every Saturday until July 29.

SMARTBRO, ASIANLIFE JOIN HANDS

Smart Communications Inc (Smart), through its Wireless Consumer Solutions Group, forged an alliance with AsianLife and General Assurance Corp (AsianLife). The partnership, packaged under AsianLife's Kabisig Program, will allow the families of public school teachers to avail of Smart Bro-powered computer workstations. Shown in photo (from left): Iris Roque, wireless consumer solutions consultant; Jan Blando, SmartBro service development manager; Kathy Carag, SmartBro senior manager; Jeffrey Lo, wireless consumer solutions department head; Perry Bayani, Smart sales and business development group head; Medardo Mercado, Manila Public School Teachers Association president; Nancy de Leon, Federation of Public School Teachers in Mandaluyong; Chat de los Reyes, Caloocan City Public School Teachers Association president; Marcial Sison, Taguig-Pateros Public School Teachers president; Eulogio A. Mendoza, Asianlife president and CEO; Mars V. Dailo Jr, SAVP for new initiatives; Ronnie Sarmiento, senior manager for Kabisig Program; Edmund Nuqui, Kabisig marketing officer; and Rei Abrazaldo, senior manager for new initiatives.

FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OPENS UCC STORE IN US

There is now a UCC Café - Coffee House 1888 in Los Angeles, USA and it is run by Hubert U. Young, the Philippine franchise holder who now has about 13 UCC branches in the Philippines. The UCC Café in the USA is geared towards attracting the Asian market particularly those from Hong Kong, Taiwan , Japan and Korea. Coffee House 1888, the addendum to the outfit's name UCC Café, intends to remind people of the original coffee house which started in Japan and is known for its tradition of serving excellent coffee. Young's choice of calling it UCC Café in the US has to do with the West's concept of Café as serving coffee and food as opposed to just coffee shop which serves coffee and pastries. In photo, Hubert Young enjoys the company of colleague Masahide Araki, director/GM of UCC inside the newly opened Coffee House 1888 in L.A.

Pasig traders expect vibrant business

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN Pasig City will be more vibrant, thanks to the youthful leadership of its new mayor, the Pasig Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PaCCII) said yesterday.

Speaking at the 434th Araw ng Pasig rites, Nora Lacuna, former PaCCII president, said both local and national business owners are confident that Mayor Bobby Eusebio would continue the reforms started by his father to make the city more business-friendly.

Under Eusebio's father, business owners in Pasig were given all the help in starting their business. This is the reason why commercial centers sprouted, particularly in the Ortigas area. A One-Stop Shop and Business Center was also set up by the the Pasig City government to provide assistance in business permit processing and training new entrepreneurs

Pasig is the former provincial capital of Rizal. It is now home to many of the country's biggest companies and organizations, among them, the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), Universal Robina Corp, Philippine Stock Exchange, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and hundreds of industrial firms located along its famous river.

Lacuna added that a good working relationship between the city government and business owners is critical for Pasig's continued economic progress. "Successful cities in the world are all the result of a healthy partnership between the government and the business sector," she said.

2007 ALASKA HALO-HALO FESTIVAL PRESS LUNCH

April 28, marked the date of the 2007 Alaska Halo-Halo Festival Press Lunch at Laguna Garden Cafe, Ayala Center Cebu. It was an intimate pocket lunch that gathered selected press people to better understand Alaska's yearly Halo-Halo Festival. The two endorsers, Janice and Gelli de Belen were present to promote the festival. During the big event, they raffled off various prizes like sacks of rice, adult and children's bike, cellphone units, stand fans, and Alaska gift packs. Shown are Alaska endorsers and sisters Gelli and Janice de Belen with senior brand manager for liquid milk, Cay Chavez during the Alaska Halo-Halo Festival Press Lunch.

HLURB AWARDS LAKESHORE VILLAGES

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) has chosen the Venice and Eastlake Villages of The Lakeshore, located on Km. 71 North Luzon Expressway, Mexico, Pampanga as Special Awardee for Best Development Design ander PD 957 for CY 2007 along with Ayala Westgrove Heights. Shown during the awarding ceremony are (from left): CCEI VP for marketing emely s medina; HLURB Region III Regional Officer Edith U. Barrameda; Vice President Noli De Castro; CCEI president and CEO architect Nestor S. Mangio and CCEI director architect Brian John P. Mangio.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE GRILL OPENING

It was fitting for manly men like basketball star Kirby Raymundo of Purefoods (left) to grace the recent opening of Texas Roadhouse Grill at Bonifacio Global City's chic new Bonifacio High Street. Texas Roadhouse Grill is the first authentic Western cowboy saloon in Manila serving man-sized or family-friendly portions of authentic American-Western food . With Raymundo during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left), Asia Roadhouse Group corporate secretary lawyer Danilo Enrique Co, Asia Roadhouse president Raymond Go, and Purefoods head coach Paul Ryan Gregorio.

ASIATRUST, PSE ENCOURAGE SME CLIENTS TO GO IPO

Asiatrust Bank (ATB) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) recently collaborated to host a free seminar entitled 'IPO: SME's Vehicle for Growth and Wealth Creation,' specifically for the bank's valued SME clients. This aimed to orient them on an alternative option to raise funds to expand their business and maximize the value of their company. Shown in the photo after the event (from left): PSE marketing services manager Andy Liwanag, ATB VP real estate sector Emerson Sta. Ana, ATB SVP account management Edgar de Asis, ATB AVP CorpComm Marla Vital, PSE VP markets development division, ATB president and CEO Dionisio Ong, Citiseconline.com president and CEO Conrado Bate and lawyer Reynaldo Concepcion of Accra Law.

AYALA, JOBSTREET CONTRACT SIGNING

Ayala Group of Companies and JobStreet.com had their contract signing for the renewal of Ayala's career site. Careers@Ayala will be accessible through its corporate website http://www.ayala.com.ph. It shows real-time job opportunities and has an advanced recruitment management system that can capture, process, and manage resumes of any interested applicant who visits the website. Photo shows (sitting from left): Ayala Land Inc's Tricia Carlos, Ayala property management Corp's HR assistant Laarni Polancos, Globe Telecom's head-staffing delivery and partner management Grace de Castro, BPI senior manager Grace Saulog, Ayala Land Inc's talent management head-HR Donna De Santos, Manila Water's unit head - strategic staffing Maycy Guballa, Ayala Corp's HR assistant Cecil Yambao, and Globe Telecom's Pinky Mondia; (standing from left): JobStreet.com's sales supervisor Kim Chua, JobStreet.com's Impact product supervisor Raffy Vicente, JobStreet.com's senior account manager Claude Mallillin, JobStreet.com's senior corporate care officer Alex Parel, and JobStreet.com's marketing manager Ritchie Ramos.

BITS Clips

'Fresh Xpress' business partnership program

WENPHIL CORP, COUNTRY LICENSEE OF WENDY'S HAMBURGERS STORES, will soon offer its Fresh Xpress business partnership program in this year's 15th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (PIFCE) to be held on July 6-8, at the World Trade Center (Expo) in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Elizabeth Pardo-Orbeta, Wenphil Corp president and overall chair of PIFCE 2007, said the company is in a midst of expanding the roll-out of Fresh Xpress network all over the metropolis and even in other cities where it is deemed feasible. The upfront business partnership fee is pegged at P350,000 that will be used to acquire capital equipment and working inventories for a Fresh Express outlet. A business partner will be allowed to participate in financing one or more Fresh Express outlets. A presentation of its new Fresh Xpress business partnership program, including a description of financing investment schemes, terms and conditions, will be featured during the expo.

Albay High School grand alumni homecoming

GRADUATES OF ALBAY HIGH SCHOOL-LEGAZPI FROM THE 1940S TO 1971 will have a grand alumni homecoming in summer of 2008. Core group in Manila and in Bicol are already having their respective meetings. In Manila the next meeting is on July 4 at 6 p.m. onwards at Trellis Restaurant, Quezon City. Graduates Lorenzo Paran Jr. ('66), Dominador Natad ('64), Mila Bugarin ('66), Rubina Cresencio ('71), Rudy Milay ('66), Joyce Magayanes ('65), Roque Marto ('67), Gel Kintanar ('66), Tess Gorospe ('66), Edgar Lorete ('67), Beda Melgar ('66), Filomeno Ludovice ('66), and Edwin Paclibar ('71) enjoin graduates of other years to join them in the next meeting of elect officers. For more information, contact Ruby Cresencio 0915-4462649, Beda Melgar 0917-8059946, Roque Martos 0917-8575742, Joyce Magayanes 0919-4825876, Edgar Lorete 0926-6861039, and Rudy Milay 0906-3151585.

FDC declares cash dividend

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP (FDC) declared a cash dividend of two centavos per common share, payable on July 5, to all stockholders of record as of June 29, 2007. The cash dividend declaration comes on the heels of the company's report of a net income of P1.6 billion for the first quarter of 2007 or a 952 percent increase from P150 million in the same period 2006, and a net extraordinary gain of P1.1 billion from the sale by Filinvest Alabang Inc (FAI), a FDC subsidiary, of its shares in stocks of Filinvest Land Inc (FLI) in February 2007. But even without this extraordinary gain, net income from FDC's regular operations still jumped by a remarkable 213 percent to P470 million. FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap attributed the growth to FDC subsidiaries' increased market reach made possible by product innovation, wider geographic reach, and product diversification.

Clusivol Booster Buddies mall tour

WYETH CONSUMER HEALTHCARE, MAKERS OF LEADING BRANDS SUCH AS Clusivol, Centrum and Robitussin, launches the "Clusivol Booster Buddies" mall tour. It is a series of mall events, which aims to promote the importance of taking Clusivol Power C and Children's Clusivol together. It will host free sampling to give kids the benefit of boosted resistance and appetite. The Clusivol Booster Buddies mall tour will give out lots of premiums and special offers. Free prizes are up for grabs with every purchase of Children's Clusivol and Clusivol Power C or other Wyeth Consumer Healthcare products. Art exercises and activities at the booth make it fun for the kids too while mom is busy with her Clusivol purchases. Help children achieve better health by giving them that much needed boost. Give them Clusivol Power C and Children's Clusivol together. Get them free on these dates: June 30-July 1, Limketkai Mall CDO; June 30–July 1, NCCC Mall Davao; July 7-8, KCC Gensan; July 7-8, SM North Edsa; July 14-15, SM Megamall; July 14-15, SM Fairview; July 21-22, Nepo Mall, Dagupan; July 21-22, SM Bacoor.

Make your bathroom look good this rainy season

THERE ARE THREE SIMPLE WAYS ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BATHroom especially this rainy season where dirt and mud can easily get in. To avoid or remove mildew that is usually found in the corners of the tub, dip cotton balls on bleach and let them sit after a few minutes and remove the cotton balls then rinse well. This will help you have a mildew-free bathroom. Second, practice to always have a bath rug outside the shower area to collect water and dirt. This will also minimize having mud all over your bathroom. You may also place a rug outside your bathroom door so a person may remove dirt from his footwear before entering the bathroom. Third, always keep an all-purpose cleaner and sponge inside your bathroom's cabinet so you can quickly clean up your bathroom when unexpected company shows up. A well maintained bathroom even rainy season is a good reflection of the persons using it. No excuse is acceptable in not having a dirt-free bathroom. These tips to keep are brought to you by HCG - the leading brand of bathroom fixtures. HCG is also offering a wide collection of bathroom fixtures that have Innoglaze, anti-dirt and anti-bacterial glaze, which can help you in maintaining a beautiful bathroom whatever season. For more information and product specifications, log on to www.hcg.com.ph.

Illam's homeruns for RP

THE INTERNATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ASSOCIAtion of Manila or Illam has been making waves around the region. At the recent Southeast Asian Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament held last March in Perth, Australia, two of four Illam teams were champions in their divisions: the Major Boys (13 to 14 year-olds) and the Senior Girls (15 to 18). Illam also ruled the 2007 Little League Philippine Series in Tanuan, Batangas last April, winning an unprecedented five of eight divisions: the Major Boys, Major Girls, Junior Boys, Big Boys and Big Girls. These national winners will now represent the Philippines in the Little League Asia Pacific Tournament in Guam, Hongkong and Manila; the regional champions then go on to compete in the Little League International World Series in the United States. Illam is a non-stock, non-profit body chartered by Little League Baseball, the oldest and most recognized youth baseball organization in the US . It is made up of youths from six to eighteen years old, both local and expatriate, and is supported by the Terabyte Tigers, San Miguel Corp, Olympic Village, Electrobus Consolidated, Rep. Gualberto Duavit and Toby's Sports.

Metrobank's 'MetroCar Great Rates Sale'

THE METROCAR GREAT RATES SALE OFFERS SPECIAL RATES TO CAR buyers who will avail of Metrobank's MetroCar auto loan package in the bank's Metro Manila branches. Metrobank depositors who avail of the promo will be entitled to an additional rate reduction. Choose from the latest car models from the MetroCar Great Rates Sale participating dealers Toyota Manila Bay Corp, Ford Global City, Honda Cars Pasig, Hyundai Quezon Avenue, Isuzu Inteco Edsa, Kia Motors Greenhills, Mitsubishi Citimotors Inc, and Nissan UN Avenue Manila. Borrowers will also enjoy the other benefits of a MetroCar auto loan such as loan values of up to 80 percent of your new car's net selling price, affordable installment plan of up to 60 months, fast processing of loan application, and worry-free loan repayment through issuance of postdated checks or automatic debit arrangements. The MetroCar Great Rates Sale will run from June 29 to Sept. 30 only. For more information, visit your nearest Metrobank Branch within Metro Manila. Or call 898-8540, 898-8577, 898-8502, 898-8943, and 898-8537.

Gano Excel Phils celebrates 8th anniversary

GANO EXCEL PHILIPPINES WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS 8th YEAR ANNIVERSARY on July 14, buoyed up by the favorable market reaction to its seven new specialty products targeting food supplement consumers. Center of this year's milestone event will be the "Great at 8" anniversary rally and grand recognition of achievers to be held at the Le Pavillon on Roxas Blvd, Pasay City starting 2 p.m. It will be attended by Gano Excel distributors from all over the Philippines as well as from some of the company's global branches. For tickets, call 638-1053 (look for Meann).

2007 Circuit Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES FROM MAKATI AND PASAY WILL HOLD THEIR TWOday circuit assembly themed "Store Up... Treasures in Heaven - Mathew 16:20" at the Metro Manila Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Barangay Kaligayahan, Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City on July 7 and 8 at 8 a.m. In our society, fame and wealth are highly regarded. Hence, people are becoming more materialistic. The assembly features carefully prepared talks that describe the traps of materialism so we can avoid them. It shall also acquaint us to the priorities we should pursue and the person we should look for during times of distress and trials. The public talks on Sunday with title "Paano Ka Makakaligtas sa 'Araw ng Poot' ni Jehovah?" will be delivered in Tagalog by district overseer, brother Justiniano Moral. Everyone is invited to come and listen. No collections. This will surely sustain your faith.

Krispy Kreme opens 3rd RP branch

KRISPY KREME, THE AMERICAN DOUGHNUT FRANCHISE, OPENED ITS 3RD store in the Philippines, June 28, at the Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Metro Manila. Owned and operated by the Real American Doughnut Co, the Philippine rights holder of the popular doughnut brand, Krispy Kreme Greenhills is also the first drive-thru in Asia, and the first free-standing store in the Philippines. The first two branches are located in Bonifacio High Street in The Fort, Taguig City; and at SM Megamall. Jim Fuentabella, chair of Real American Doughnut, said they are committed to open 30 stores in grade A, high-traffic and thickly-populated cities in the next five years. Other upcoming stores are in Ayala Avenue in Makati and the new Trinoma Mall in North Edsa, Quezon City.

PFI/WOFCKC pilot project on malunggay

PORAC FOUNDATION INC (PFI) OF PORAC PAMPANGA AND WORLD OUTREACH Foundation of Kansas City (WOFKC) are partnering for a pilot malunggay project in Porac, Pampanga. The malunggay pilot project will serve as a forum for uniting the forces of the two institutions in a thrust that aims to provide the tools, the inspiration and the context where the poor can learn to help themselves using the resources that they have. The pilot project, consisting of one-hectare malunggay plantation and a prototype processing facility will be blessed on July 7, at Porac, Pampanga, together with the launching of the products made from malunggay.

ZTE defends NBN contract, threatens to sue critics

By Riza T. Olchondra

CHINESE FIRM ZTE CORP. YESTERDAY HIT back at its critics, claiming yet again that it had not violated any law when it received the contract to undertake the national broadband network (NBN) project for the Philippine government.

"ZTE entered into the NBN project in compliance with the relevant Philippine laws and regulations," said Zhang Shumin, director for sales management.

In a statement, Zhang also dismissed allegations that ZTE bribed government officials in its bid to secure the contract.

"The accusations of bribery and corruption against ZTE are totally untrue, baseless, and unfair," Zhang said. "ZTE reserves the right to take the appropriate legal action against the persons responsible for these libelous allegations."

The commercial deal signed with ZTE Corp. in April resulted from a government-to-government agreement, backed by a Chinese government loan worth $329.5 million. This will be repaid by the Philippine government in 20 years, at an annual interest rate of three percent and with a grace period of five years.

Two losing proponents, Filipino company Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) and Arescom Inc. of the United States, have questioned the awarding of the contract, saying that Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act requires bidding before a contract is awarded.

But Zhang claimed ZTE secured the contract legitimately.

"As a listed company in the Hong Kong and Shenzhen stock exchanges, ZTE's business operations are closely scrutinized and regulated, and we are required to operate under a strict corporate governance system," Zhang said.

Also, Zhang said it is unfair to compare ZTE's winning proposal to those of AHI and Arescom, which offered to build a broadband network for only $242 million and $135 million, respectively.

"A comparison will not be fair if you are not comparing apples to apples," he said. "ZTE's proposal is a telecom-class solution."

Zhang noted that AHI's own business reports show that it does not have the necessary telecom service experience, while Arescom's offer does not include operating costs, which could amount to more than $5 million every year due to the lease for satellite link.

Lorenzo Formoso, assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication, clarified in a separate interview that ZTE's contract did not violate local laws. He added that the government would not fork out any more money than was already paying for its telecommunications needs, which amounts to P4 billion yearly.

Formoso also said that annual savings of P2 billion to P3 billion using the Chinese-built network would be more than enough to pay for the loan.

Formoso added that AHI's proposal included a provision for offering commercial operations, in direct competition with incumbent telcos.

Initial public offspring

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT the "assignment" of somebody close to this cute administration to case some hiding places abroad.

That, according to talk in business circles, may very well be one of the preparations for 2010. You know, the finish line!

In business circles, they are evaluating Gloriaetta's body language and pronouncements after that disaster in the mid-term elections.

And based on words from the mouths of babes at the Palace, "legacy" is what Gloriaetta has in mind.

In other words, what lasting programs will she, as President of the Republic for almost 10 years, leave behind to the nation—aside from higher taxes?

This early, according to word going around in business, this cute administration may be planning for an even-the-score, payback-time scenario in 2010.

For one, if the results of the mid-term elections were any indication, Gloriaetta remains as unpopular as ever.

Even Gloriaetta's favorite former Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, who ran and lost in the elections, admitted that he suffered from his association with Gloriaetta.

And so, can Gloriaetta recover from her "unpopularity rating soon enough to be the "king-maker" of the next president?

If she cannot, the new administration in 2010 may not be, er, "friendly." Meaning, really, it may be payback time!

And we all know that, despite his wealth and all, the man named Band ... Wrist Band, showed this country the way by being forced to stay in jail for the past six years.

Some people perhaps want to prepare for a quick getaway.

* * *

CREATING RIPPLES in the lively stock market is the latest IPO of a little known oil company called Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc., or IPPI, for short.

Today is the deadline for the subscription to the IPO. But as early as last week, word in the market was that the issue was already 15 times oversubscribed.

Of course the public's interest in the issue is partly due to the good showing of the market. Everybody wants IPOs, right?

Now, take a look at some figures: At an IPO price of P9.80 per share, IPPI in effect will have a price-earning ratio of nine times. The average ratio in its industry is 18 times.

Plus, the company is raising a small amount of only P360 million, planning to use the "free" IPO money for new depots and for dealership network.

Based on rumors in the market last week, somebody already made an over-the-counter transaction at P13 per share.

But you also have to consider what is this company called PPPI all about?

From what I gathered, it is one offspring of the liberalization of the energy sector, one of those so-called "independent" oil firms.

You know, those new firms outside the "Big 3," which are Caltex, Petron, and Shell.

It is the first offspring to go public.

IPPI is in the thick of expansion in Mindanao, particularly the southern part. It reportedly gained five percent of the market share in the region in 2006, with its 20 retail service stations there already accounting for some 8 percent of the retail stations.

At present the company is acquiring real estate for new depots and terminals, such as the 3.5-hectare property at the Union Industrial Park (Batangas), which is a port area owned by Bacnotan Industrial Park, which in turn is owned by the Phinma Group.

IPPI has an existing "supply agreement" with PTT Philippines, the local subsidiary of Thailand's oil company PTT Public Co. Ltd.

IPPI will also carry the "Emarat" brand of oil products, which is the leading petroleum brand in the United Arab Emirates.

* * *

WE RECEIVED a letter from Paul Azarcon, country manager here of the Australian firm Rusina Mining NL, in reaction to our column on June 5 on the mining sector.

Rusina is listed in the stock markets in Australia and in London.

It is one of the bigger international mining groups that are taking interest in the hot mining industry here.

Azarcon's letter goes:

"Acoje is a *sitio* in Sta. Cruz, Zambales. It's also the site of the former Acoje chromite mine that closed in 1991-92. For about five years during the 1970s, Acoje produced nickel-platinum suphide concentrate from its underground mine.

"The Sta. Cruz-Candelario mining project that Rusina is currently exploring by virtue of an option agreement with Crau Minerals Resources Corp., the MPSA holder, and which you referred to as Acoje project—is not a Geograce project as you have mistakenly written.

"Rusina signed a letter of intent with Geograce Resources last Nov. 23, 2006.

"To date, the contemplated investment of Georgrace into Rusina's Sta. Cruz-Candelaria mining project has not materialized, but the parties have agreed to keep options open for future cooperation on Zambales nickel properties.

"Rusina has declared a JORC-compliant nickel laterite resource in the Sta. Cruz-Candelaria mining project early this year, and is currently completing the permitting requirements for a nickel direct shipping operations.

"The partners of Rusina in developing value added options foor nickel laterite from its Zambales property are DMCI for a proposed pig iron production and European Nickel for the feasibility of heap leach technology application.

"Rusina remains keen on pursuing further exploration works to ascertain the potentials of its Zambales property for platinum-nickel sulphides and chromite."

Niche coco products land on list of top RP export earners for Feb.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SIX NON-TRADITIONAL COCONUT PRODUCTS made it to the list of "top exports" in the category for February as producers posted total earnings of about $2.05 million, or P94.7 million, the previous month.

The six products—shampoo, *nata de coco*, glycerine, virgin coconut oil, liquid coconut milk, and toilet and bath soap—each earned at least $100,000, or about P4.6 million, in January as supplies tightened due to the damage on coconut trees caused by a spate of supertyphoons late last year.

According to the umbrella group United Coconut Associations of the Philippines, global demand for goods made with natural ingredients continued to drive exports of the niche products.

Topping the list was shampoo, with shipments valued at $984,383 at a volume of 375 metric tons. The figure was 650 percent higher than the shipments reported in the same month a year ago.

Cargoes of coconut shampoo went to Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Pakistan, China, Thailand and 18 other countries.

In February, *nata de coco* exporters earned $304,944 from 298 MT, which was 32.7 percent less than year-ago shipments.

Japan remained the biggest buyer of *nata de coco*, cornering almost four-fifths of the cargoes. The rest went to 22 other countries, including Hong Kong, Canada, United States, United Arab Emirates and South Korea.

Glycerine, which is used as an ingredient for medicines, personal care products, foods and beverages, animal feeds and other items, earned $234,129 at 252 MT—a big slide at just about a quarter of the year-ago volume.

Japan was also the biggest market for glycerin, snapping up 16.9 percent of total cargoes, while the rest went to New Zealand, Malaysia, Vietnam and the US.

On the other hand, shipments of virgin coconut oil almost tripled to 46 MT at $191,859, most of which was sent to the US while the rest was shipped to Malaysia, United Kingdom and Australia.

Liquid coconut milk sold for $178,674—slightly higher than the year-ago volume of 137 MT.

Toilet and bath soap made from coconut ingredients earned $153,682 from 65 MT of cargo, or almost 60 percent lower in volume. Shipments went mostly to the UAE and Malaysia.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PAMANTASAN NG ARAULLO (ARAULLO UNIVERSITY), INC.

Please be notified of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pamantasan ng Araullo (Araullo University), Inc. to be held on **Tuesday, 10 July 2007 at 1:30 p.m., at Araullo University, Bitas, Cabanatuan City**, with the following Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Reading and Approval of Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2006-2007
5. Appointment of External Auditor
6. Ratification of all Acts of Directors, Committees and Officers
7. Election of Trustees
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

(Sgd.) TROY A. LUNA
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–July 3, 2007)

More Classified Ads

Securities and Exchange Commission Page A9
Department of Labor-NCR Page A23

OBITUARIES

"... with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God."
(Colossians 3:16)

THE MISSIONARY BENEDICTINE SISTERS
St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila
on this centennial year of the arrival of Sr. Baptista Battig, OSB to the Philippines and the foundation of St. Scholastica's College School of Music, Manila
announce the death of
SISTER ILDEPHONSA (CARIDAD) DIMSON PINEDA, OSB
(April 20, 1923 – July 1, 2007)
in Manila on July 1, 2007. She is survived by her sister, **Romualda Pineda-Ramirez.**
Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque today, July 3 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF CAGAYAN DE ORO COLLEGE, INC.

Please be notified of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Cagayan de Oro College, Inc. to be held on **Tuesday, 17 July 2007 at 3:00 p.m., at Cagayan de Oro College, Max Suniel Street, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City**, with the following Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Approval of Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2006 to 2007
5. Election of Trustees
6. Ratification of Acts of the Board, Committees and Executive Officers
7. Appointment of External Auditor
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

(Sgd.) TROY A. LUNA
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–July 3, 2007)

BUSINESS

ORGANIC farming promoted in coconut-producing regions.

Organic intercropping project starts in Bicol

By Amy R. Remo

FARMERBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Corp. will start implementing its P57-million Cocomega project, which promotes organic intercropping in coconut plantations and pushes for the rehabilitation of coconut farms in Bicol.

The project would cover about 3,200 hectares of coconut farms and would benefit some 19,000 direct farmer-partners in Guinobatan, Ligao and Camalig in Albay and Pilar, Castilla and Donsol in Sorsogon.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap had endorsed the project to the San Miguel Corp.-CIIF Special Coco Fund for financing.

Also, FDC is seeking greater support from and wider partnership with the Department of Agriculture in organic farming and intercropping.

In a statement, FDC said its partnership with the DA would help increase the country's organic farming output and would enable the country to raise its exports of organic products to major markets.

China and Thailand currently dominate the billion-dollar export market for organic food.

The company will begin the project in the next four to eight weeks. It will use high value crops, such as corn and banana, for organic intercropping.

Aside from the Bicol region, FDC is also targeting selected "key coconut convergent" areas in Visayas and Mindanao for the Cocomega project.

Aside from rehabilitating coconut lands and introducing organic farming in Bicol, the company is planning to pool farmers contributions into an equity fund that will be used to invest in various agro-industrial projects.

FDC is the techno-economic and business arm of the Farmer Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission-En Banc.

New owner of Mirant Corp. assets in RP junks IPO plan

TeaM Energy president says listing of IPPs not a good idea

By Abigail L. Ho

CITING THE NATURE OF AN INDEPENDENT power producer's business, TeaM Energy Corp., the joint venture that now owns Atlanta-based Mirant Corp.'s Philippine assets, is indefinitely shelving plans to hold an initial public offering.

TeaM Energy president and chief executive Federico Puno said it might not be a good idea for IPPs to list on the local bourse since most of these companies were single-purpose vehicles that would just vanish at the end of its cooperation period with National Power Corp.

"The requirement for an IPO is a concern of most IPPs because most IPPs are single-purpose vehicles and they have a definite life and definite cash flow. If you want to list in the market, investors will always look at the growth potential of the company as well as its profit potential," he explained.

"But there is no such potential for most IPPs because after the cooperation period (with Napocor), the company essentially disappears. What will happen to the shareholders after the cooperation period? Their shares will be worthless since all of the company's assets will be turned over to the government," he added.

RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), mandates generation companies and distribution utilities to list at least 15 percent of their common shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange five years from the effectivity of the law.

The deadline for listing should have been June last year.

However, the IPPs had pointed out that the Energy Regulatory Commission was first supposed to come out with guidelines to govern their listing.

Since the regulatory body had yet to come out with such guidelines, they had called for a deferment of the listing requirement.

Puno said the ERC, based on the position of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association that it might not be wise to require IPPs to go public, was calling for a new series of public hearings to determine whether or not it was a good idea for IPPs to conduct an IPO.

The hearing would also test the waters in terms of investor interest.

"For some IPPs, revenues in the first 10 years are high, but these usually drop after that. This is because IPPs are structured in such a way that the proponents can pay off their debts in the first 10 years of operation. There's hardly any financing with a tenor of as long as 25 years," he said.

First Gen Corp. last year issued 180.9 million shares through the PSE, prompting Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla to urge other IPPs to follow suit.

So far, none of the other IPPs had followed First Gen's example.

Harbour Centre, MPIC form joint venture

HARBOUR CENTRE PORT TERMINAL Inc. has entered into a joint venture agreement with Metro Pacific Investments Corp. to bid for the 25-year concession to manage and operate Manila North Harbor.

The Harbour Centre-Metro Pacific group yesterday presented proof of eligibility to join the bidding to the Philippine Ports Authority Bids and Awards committee headed by Leopoldo Bungubung, PPA port district manager.

Under the deal, HCPTI president and chief executive officer Mikee Romero said Harbour Centre took a 65-percent stake in the joint venture, while Metro Pacific getting the remaining 35 percent.

Romero said the privatization and modernization of the domestic port was expected to become an epitome of a dynamic Philippine economy at work.

Formal bids for the privatization are scheduled for submission on Oct. 17, 2008. The group expects to be informed by July 18 whether it was ruled eligible to join the bidding.

Harbour Centre is a world-class port operating within the 79-hectare Manila Harbour Centre in Tondo, Manila.

Petron, WWF ink Tubbataha Reef conservation deal

OIL REFINER PETRON CORP. RECENTLY signed a strategic agreement with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to further expand conservation efforts in the greater Sulu Sea, particularly in Tubbataha Reef-Southeast Asia's only Unesco World Heritage Site in the marine environment.

Petron is committing up to P50 million over the next five years to fund programs aimed at improving livelihood, food security and sustainable natural resource management in the municipality of Cagayancillo, which has jurisdiction over the reef.

"The sustainability and success of our business hinges on our actions as a responsible leader in every aspect of our business especially in the area of corporate citizenship," Petron chair and CEO Nicasio I. Alcantara said. "This partnership with WWF will allow us to support livelihood programs that would improve the incomes of Cagayancillo residents and give them skills essential for the preservation of Tubbataha Reef."

The Petron-WWF partnership has two major components. The first establishes and expands marine-based livelihood opportunities for Cagayancillo residents. The second component provides the opportunity to build the skills of island residents and deserving college graduates from different academic institutions, to manage marine resources through an annual summer hands-on learning program. This also serves as a means to promote stronger ties among academic institutions, scientific and technical experts, industry partners, NGOs, and local government units.

"Petron's decision to make a meaningful investment to conserve and effectively manage Tubbataha Reef represents a significant private sector commitment to the people of Palawan, and to the Philippine environment in general," WWF-Philippines president Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan said.

In partnership with stakeholders from Palawan and the national government, WWF has been playing an active role in managing the Tubbataha Reef over the past 10 years. Its involvement includes the mobilization of resources to support the management and protection of marine biodiversity, enforcement efforts, the maintenance of high standards of biological research (e.g. corals, fish, seabirds) and thorough documentation of results—a requirement for sound management.

"The preservation of Tubbataha is essential to achieve food security for thousands of fisherfolk who depend on the bounty of the Sulu Sea," Petron president Khalid D. Al-Faddagh.

Tubbataha reefs contribute immensely to the viability of coastal fisheries and food security. It has been established that the currents in the Sulu Sea transport large quantities of larvae from Tubbataha and Cagayancillo, toward the east coast of mainland Palawan, where they seed hundreds of kilometers of coastal reefs.

Researchers have recorded 396 species of corals—85 percent of all the hard coral species in the country, in this area.

SuperFerry revives open-dated ticket sale promo

By Riza T. Olchondra

PASSENGERS WHO PREFER TRAVELing by ship can enjoy open-dated ticket discounts again as Superferry brought back its Todo-Todo Sail Sale in response to customer demand, the company said on Monday.

"Indicators from our call center and other channels showed that customer interest increased by over 200 percent compared to our last promo," Superferry assistant vice-president for sales and marketing Andrew Deyto said in a statement.

A ticket from Manila to the Visayas now sells for P599, while a ticket from Manila to Mindanao sells for P799. The same rates apply for return routes.

The ports in Visayas are Bacolod, Cebu, Coron, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Puerto Princesa, and Tagbilaran. Those in Mindanao are Cagayan, Cotabato, Davao, General Santos, Iligan, Butuan, Surigao, Ozamis and Zamboanga ports.

Customers availing themselves of this promo should buy their tickets from July 1 to 7 for use from Aug. 1 to Dec. 15, 2007.

"Our open-dated tickets will give our customers the opportunity to take advantage of our sale prices with the flexibility of confirming their travel dates at a later time.

"On top of that, customers will continue to have the benefit of a larger baggage allowance," Deyto said.

"If you or your loved ones will need to travel during this period—to buy supplies in Divisoria to sell back home, to take a professional exam, to work on an immigration application, to attend a wedding, birthday or reunion—now is the time to buy a ticket," Deyto said.

All fares are inclusive of fuel charges and 12 percent VAT, but exclusive of terminal fee, insurance and security fee.

Cambodia's forest policy may serve as blueprint for RP

LIKE ALL TROPICAL COUNTRIES, THE Philippines and Cambodia have abundant rainforests.

Both have illegal logging problems, and Cambodia's efforts to solve this problem and its forest conservation policy could be a blueprint for the Philippines.

Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) vice president George Bottomley, in describing the strides being undertaken by the Cambodian government said, "Cambodia is making a determined effort to stop illegal logging and there is independent proof of its success particularly against incidents of encroachment."

The progress against forest crime was reported by Bottomley to Cambodian Ambassador to the Philippines in May during a recent courtesy call.

Swiss firm SGS—the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company—served as an independent monitor of forest crimes in Cambodia under a World Bank-funded project that started in December 2003.

In his report to May, Bottomley said that after about two years of monitoring, SGS confirmed the validity of all reported achievements by the Cambodia Forestry Administration (MAFF). He said the Cambodian government had destroyed 130 illegal sawmills and 55 timber processing plants. Out of 2,219 new cases of forest crime detected, 1,305 had been prepared for legal proceedings and 241 brought to court.

SGS monitoring techniques included both field and aerial surveys. The majority of inspections were made independently and unannounced by the Swiss firm's monitoring teams. It also conducted two satellite imagery forest cover change studies disclosing the extent of forest loss.

According to Bottomley, SGS was satisfied that MAFF took quick action on the illegal activities revealed from all SGS aerial and field reports.

Of SGS' 14 recommendations to the MAFF, 11 were successfully implemented, two were withdrawn due to structural administrative reasons and another is awaiting new legislation.

As recommended by SGS, MAFF moved to suppress forest land encroachment along road 56; investigated and prevented crossborder logging in the North Eastern end of Virachey National Park; ensured that all confiscated materials are identified and inventoried; investigated illegal sawmilling operations in the Koh Slar region; ensured that the courts bring cases of forest crimes to a verdict in a timely manner; recorded all universal transverse mercator coordinates for all rural crimes; ensured that all case tracking system cases are entered within one month of reporting and revised CTS data entry procedures to include early information of new cases.

Bottomley stressed that the findings of SGS were objective and independent and that the achievements of the Cambodia government in taking action against forest crime deserved to be internationally recognized.

CITIBANK, HSBC FORGE MABUHAY MILES DEALS WITH PAL

(Left photo) Citibank Phils. country business manager Mark Jones (left) chats with Philippine Airlines president and COO Jaime Bautista after signing an agreement that will allow Citibank cardholders to redeem Mabuhay Miles reward points earned on their credit card spending. In another development, HSBC and PAL renewed their Mabuhay Miles Visa co-branding program for another four years. (Right photo) HSBC Philippines CEO Mark Watkinson and PAL chair Lucio Tan led the signing ceremonies for the program extension.

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LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

WITTMANN says Mi Adidas makes shoes that conforms to the unique specs of the feet, while considering performance and design.

PERFECT FIT. Choose the right shoe for optimal performance in your sport.

People rarely have a choice but to buy shoes off-the-rack, put up with the inconvenience—even pain—of breaking them in until they adjust to their feet

When the shoe fits

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

THOUGH THEY MAY BE A PAIR, you know, of course, that your feet are not exactly alike.

One foot is shorter, wider or thinner, or all three. Thus, no pair of shoes has the same fit and performance.

People rarely have a choice but to buy shoes off-the-rack, put up with the inconvenience—even pain—of breaking them in until the pair adjusts to their feet.

Sometimes it takes mere days before feet and shoes become comfortable together. Other times they just do not "get along" well regardless of how expensive the shoes are.

Adidas-Germany project manager Olaf Wittmann said he knew of athletes who would buy two pairs and use one shoe from each for a better fit.

Well, that may all be in the past now. The pair of shoes, specifically athletic shoes, you get may finally fit both feet.

A service once reserved to elite athletes like Zinédine Zidane, Haile Gebrselassie, David Beckham and Justine Henin-Hardenne is finally being made available to ordinary mortals—athletic shoes custom-made for you that no one else could wear, at least not as comfortably.

Get shoes fitted to your specific sport requirements—from the size and shape of your feet to how they hit the ground—at the Mi Adidas facilities of the Adidas flagship store, 2/L Trinoma, North Edsa, QC.

Unlike other "personalized" athletic shoes, Mi Adidas is not just about style. It makes shoes adapted to the contours of each individual foot for maximum comfort no matter how strenuous the activity is.

Choose from a variety of sports-specific designs, whether it's running, tennis, football and basketball.

"It's not just the physical aspects of your feet that will be measured but the way you run, for instance, and the pressure each foot generates as it hits the ground," said Wittmann.

Computerized

After running on a special plate, a computer software collects data from each foot. Fitting experts then assist you on your quest for a suitable material, Wittman said.

Choice of soles and midsoles, for instance, will be based on the way you run and the surface you run on.

Do you over- or underpronate? Bring with you any special insoles you wear so that their measurement will be noted as well.

Experts will guide you through the whole process so you fully understand the technical aspects of your shoes.

The process that takes about 30 minutes involves three steps: Mi Fit, Mi Performance and Mi Design. Delivery is guaranteed within 21 days after an order is placed.

Mi Fit is a computer-assisted technology that measures feet independently to get the exact length and width. Choose the best material and features specific to your sports—whether you need more stability or control, or both—in Mi Performance, where a Footscan system measures the weight distribution of each foot.

Mi Design takes care of style, adding your choice of trimmings, colors, personal embroidery of up to 10 characters, etc.

Through Mi Adidas, regular Joes and Janes now get the service once reserved only for the pros.

"Mi Adidas is a performance option. Performance shoes mean a lot to an athlete, professional or not. It spells the difference between winning a competition or not," Wittmann said.

Wittmann was in town recently to train the local Mi Adidas team. The customized service is also available in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore.

Online choices

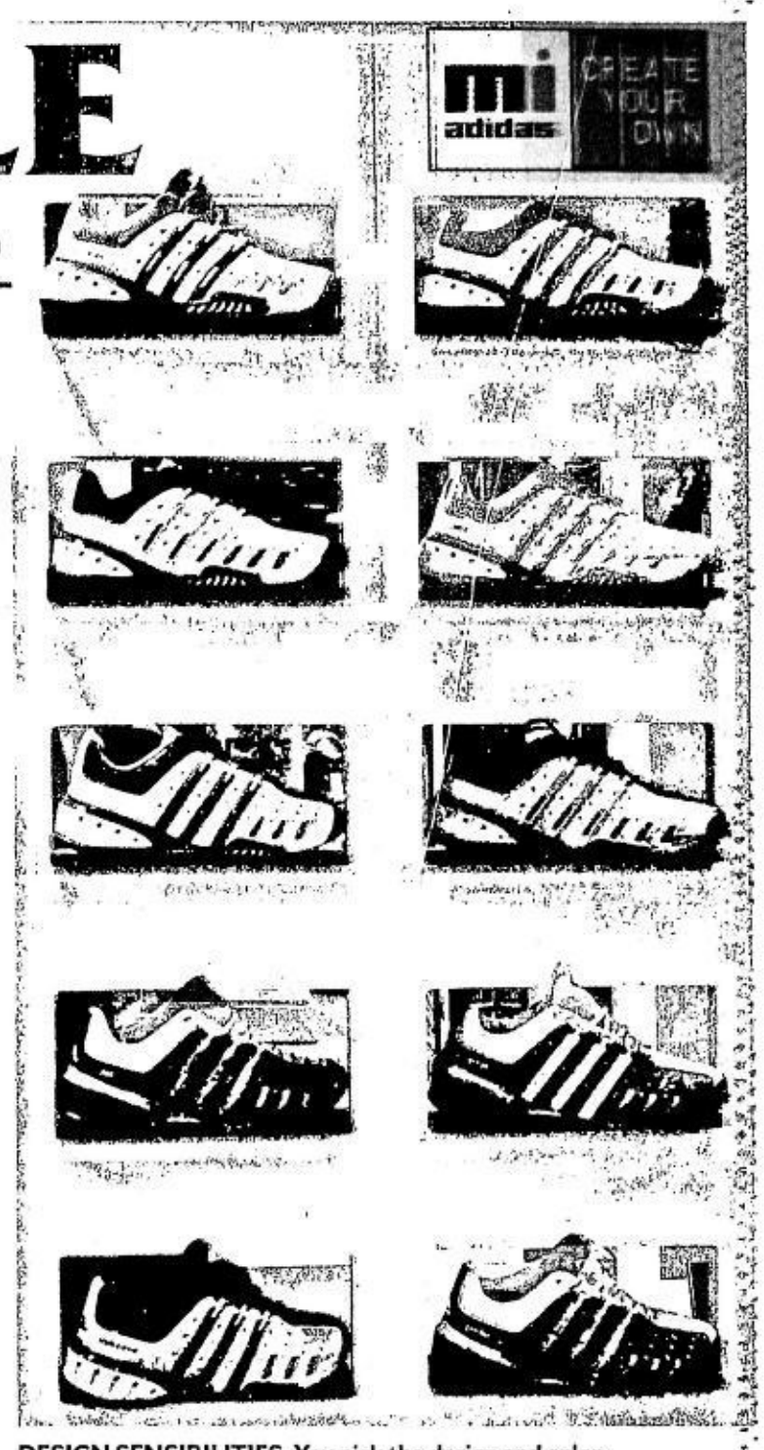
Although clients obviously have to be physically present for accurate measurement, Wittmann said design specs will soon be available online. This saves time as clients can start playing around with color combinations, materials and more, before going in for a fitting.

Founded in 2001 by Christoph Berger after pilot projects in 2000, Mi Adidas today has 48 units in more than 20 countries.

Mi Adidas first worked on football shoes, then running, tennis, indoor and basketball. Price range is P6,000-12,000. There is no warranty, although Adidas-Phils. marketing communications manager Odette B. Velarde said the shoes will be replaced if they did not meet the client's specifications.

E-mail the author at ajambora @inquirer.com.ph

ALL THINGS MEASURED. Feet are individually measured for length and width.



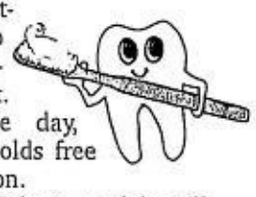
DESIGN SENSIBILITIES. You pick the design and color.

Simple ways to be fit and fab

CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS CAN learn and enjoy simple steps to better health at the Fit and Fabulous fair ongoing until July 22 at the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang.

On July 7, Laxare Nail and Day Spa will talk about the importance of aroma blend oils to the body at the 2nd level, Carousel Court.

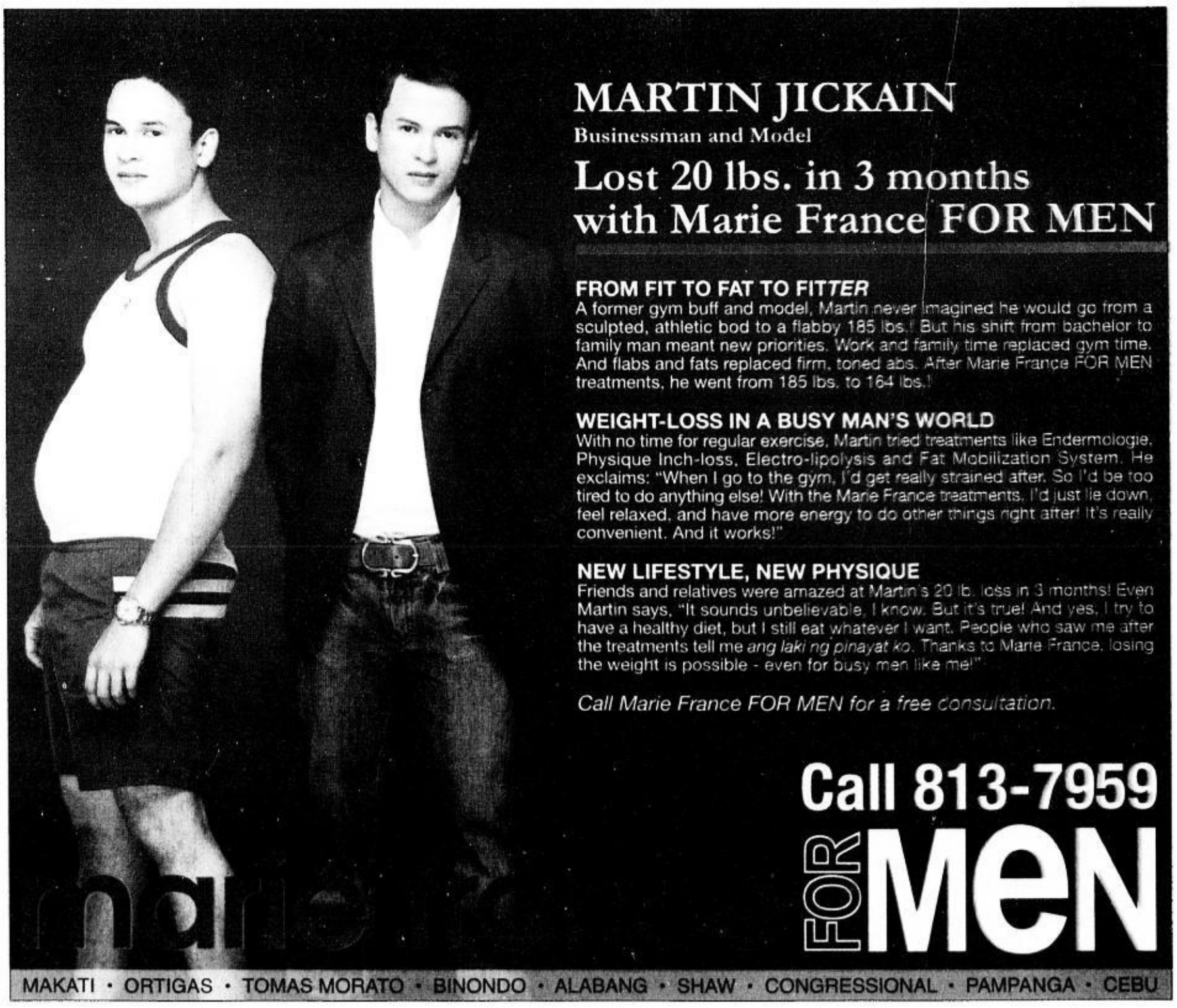
Get tips on how to look and feel better as it launches its detoxification and immuno-boost treatments. It will also conduct a demonstration of nail art.



On the same day, Ngipin Station holds free dental consultation.

At 4 p.m. on July 8, models will present the latest in apparel and jewelry in the Shimmer and Shine show.

Festival Supermall is in Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 8503514 and 8503515 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.ph.



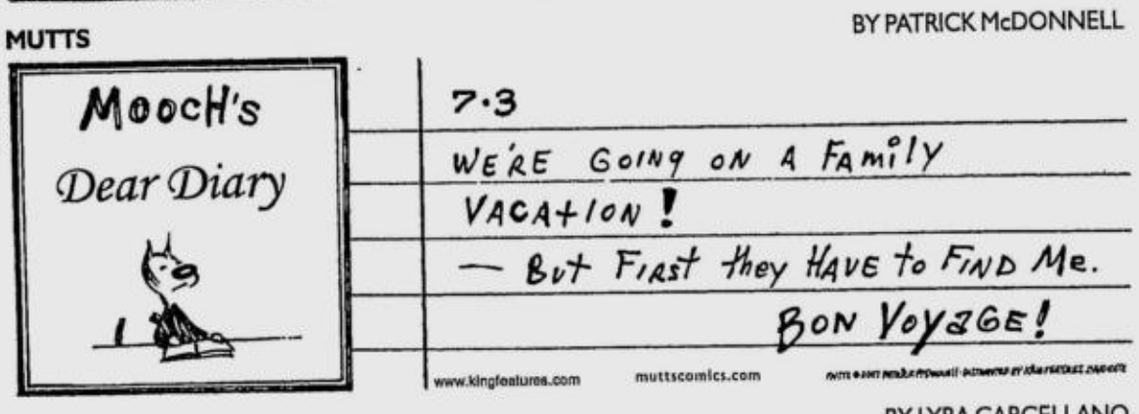
GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL



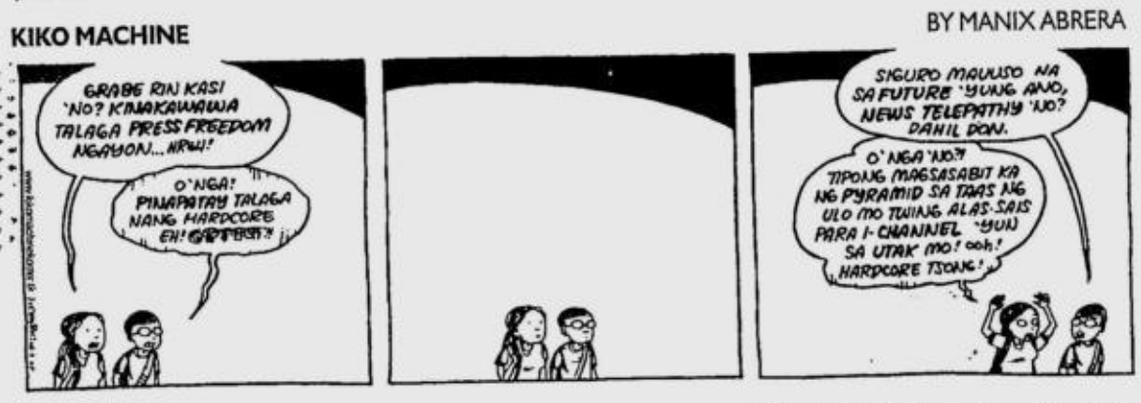
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

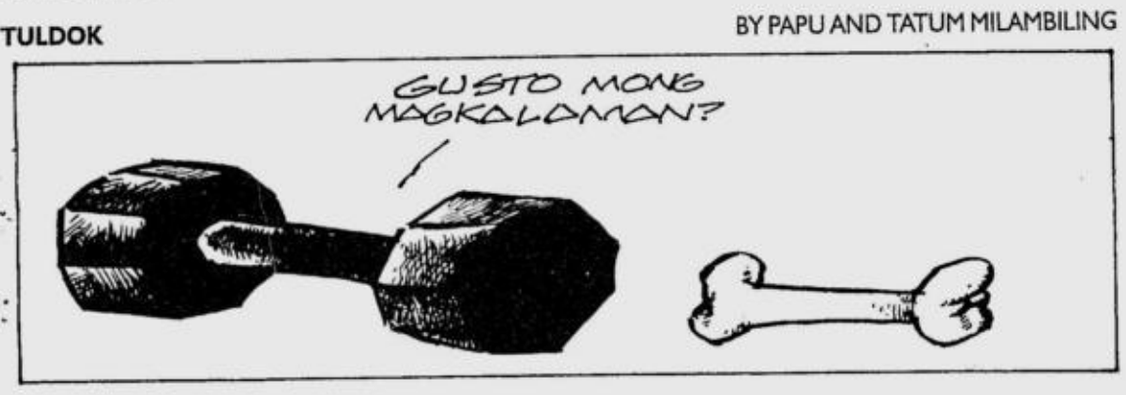
BINIGYAN NA RIN NI AMBROSIO NG KONTING RESPETO ANG KANYANG LUMANG KOTSE PAGKATAPOS NYANG MAPANOOD ANG PELIKULANG "TRANS-FORMERS"

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA



MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

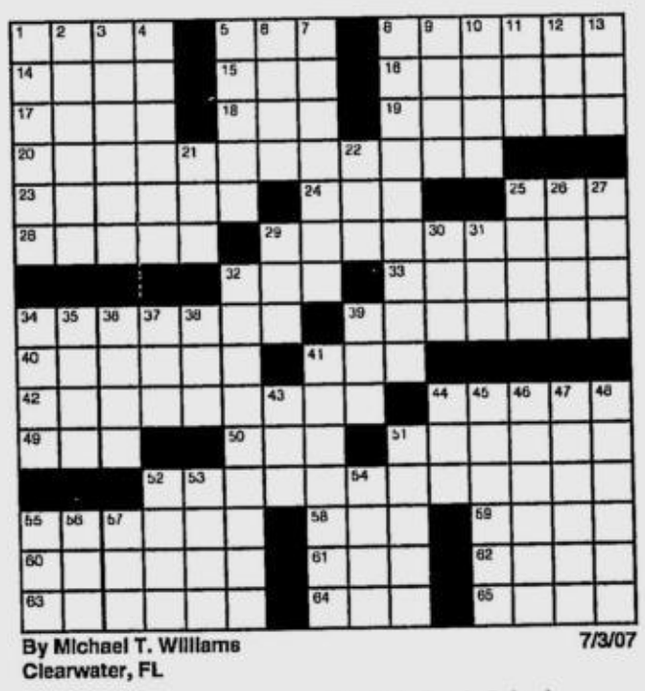


BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Speck
5 Fourth of MMXVI
8 Vilifies
14 Like the dry season
15 Poetic tribute
16 Chanteuse Kitt
17 Leslie Caron title role
18 "__ the land of the free..."
19 Confess again
20 Tournament time
23 Loos and Louise
24 Arabic Mac
25 Face in the mirror?
28 Impudent
29 Tournament sport
32 Brood
33 Scottish port
34 Rummy relative
39 Laments
40 Homecoming guests
41 Blue
42 Tournament round
44 Formidable stingers
49 Aliens, briefly
50 Calendar abbr.
51 Word with axe or cry
52 Tournament round
55 From Pago Pago
58 __ of the blue
59 Tanguay and Gabor
60 Hold gently
61 GI
62 Offense or defense, e.g.
63 Spoke snake
64 Just short
65 Actress Harper

DOWN
1 Molten rock masses
2 Tennyson ballad subject
3 Baghdad's river
4 Decrees
5 Destines to an unhappy end
6 Novel thought
7 Jury's finding
8 Sang love songs
9 Murray and West
10 Time periods
11 Off-road 4-wheeler
12 Fraternity letter
13 Tool with teeth
21 Cow chow
22 Roundball letters
25 "Star Wars" character
26 Unzip
27 Functions
29 Long or Peeples
30 Hive noise
31 John's Yoko
32 Became hard
34 Small restaurant
35 Touched down
36 Convent crowd
37 Physicians' org.
38 NBC classic
39 Tavern
41 Beaus
43 Mined mineral
44 Paraffin
45 Sign an oath
46 Wonder of Motown
47 Begs
48 Intuits
51 Itty-__
52 Lays a lawn
53 Corduroy ridge
54 The like
55 SMU or MSU
56 Jackie's second
57 Pas' mates



By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL
7/3/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	L	C		M	E	D	E	S		S	K	I	M
A	S	E	A		A	X	I	A	L		T	E	T	E
P	I	G	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y		E	V	E	R
A	S	S	E	N	T	O	R	S		P	R	I	M	E
			T	A	L	L	Y		B	O	N	N		
C	A	P	O	T	E			A	U	D	U	B	O	N
E	M	O		E	D	S	E	L	S		M	A	Z	O
D	O	R	I	S		H	O	I		A	S	C	O	T
E	L	K	S		R	A	N	T	E	D		O	N	E
D	E	B	O	R	A	H			L	O	A	N	E	D
		A	T	O	M		T	I	E	R	S			
S	E	R	O	W		M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S
H	A	R	P		H	A	M	S	T	R	I	N	G	S
I	S	E	E		E	M	E	E	R		C	R	A	T
M	E	L	S		P	A	S	T	A		S	E	N	S

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7/3/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely observant. You're curious about everything. You notice details; furthermore, you keep track of things in diaries and journals. You have high ideals; ironically, this makes you cynical at times. (You expect a lot from yourself and others.) You work very hard for your success. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings. Open any door!
Birthdate of: Tom Cruise, actor; Dave Barry, author; Yeardley Smith, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you think that others are being critical of you today, don't overreact. This feeling will be gone by tomorrow. Curb your impulse to give someone a piece of your mind. (You need to keep all of it for yourself!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with parents, teachers, bosses and authority figures are a bit discouraging today. Someone might be critical of your efforts. (You need this like a fish needs a bicycle.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Avoid political and religious arguments today. You can't win. Others will refer to various authorities in their attempt to convince you. Just back off and keep your peace of mind.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Financial matters concern you today. Actually, it could be the lack of generosity of someone else that disappoints you. Someone might be tight-fisted.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with partners and close friends are not easy today. Either party is likely to be critical of the other. Bite your tongue!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Publications or delays might discourage your work today. Don't worry, these are temporary little glitches. Tomorrow is quite a different day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friends might be critical of your children or your romantic choices. Either way, try not to react to this. When it comes right down to it, what do they know?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Avoid important discussions with authority figures, especially parents and bosses, today. You won't receive the cooperation you'd hoped for. In fact, someone might try to shut you down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): News related to travel, education, publishing or dealing with foreign countries might be disappointing to you today. However, this is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Perhaps you don't want to share something with someone today. Perhaps others don't want to share with you. Either way, don't make a big deal out of this. Tomorrow things are different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be patient with partners and close friends today. Others might say something that actually angers you. (Don't let them see your reaction.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The best way to handle today is just to work hard and pay attention to details. Don't be discouraged by the criticism of others. Do your own thing.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

1				4		5		
		7		6	8			
	3			9				6
			5				9	
8	2	5				1	4	7
	7				2			
5				2			1	
			6	1		8		
		9		5				3

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/03

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	2	1	4	6	8	3	7
4	8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9
7	3	6	9	8	2	4	5	1
2	6	8	5	9	1	7	4	3
3	7	4	2	6	8	1	9	5
1	9	5	4	3	7	2	8	6
8	4	9	6	1	3	5	7	2
6	2	3	7	5	4	9	1	8
5	1	7	8	2	9	3	6	4

Difficulty Level ★ 7/02

WE ARE *FAMILLE*: Marc Ablaza, CPPI VP of Internal Affairs; Tessa Jacomine-Ablaza; Rizabel C. Santos; Ambassador Jerril Santos (DFA), and Czarina Ablaza-Syquia

BY AND Angeli Ong with Tess and Letty Syquia

JUDGE Princess Ongkeko, Henry and Linabelle Villarica, Pocholo Martinez

DASHING Ambassador Albert del Rosario; Isabel A. Abella, CPPI treasurer; and Victoria F. Villanueva, CPPI director

LYDIA Reyes, Cristina Caedo and Manny Almelor

LUIS I. Ablaza Jr., CPPI president and consul of Zambia, with his wife Mellie Romero Ablaza, consul of Guatemala; Madame Sirima Senevirathna and husband Ambassador W.M. Senevirathna of Sri Lanka

A dazzling 51st anniversary bash

APRÉS ALL THE *BESO-BESO* and socializing with a glass of Moet-Chandon champagne in hand, we sat down for the excellent dinner, *palanggas*.

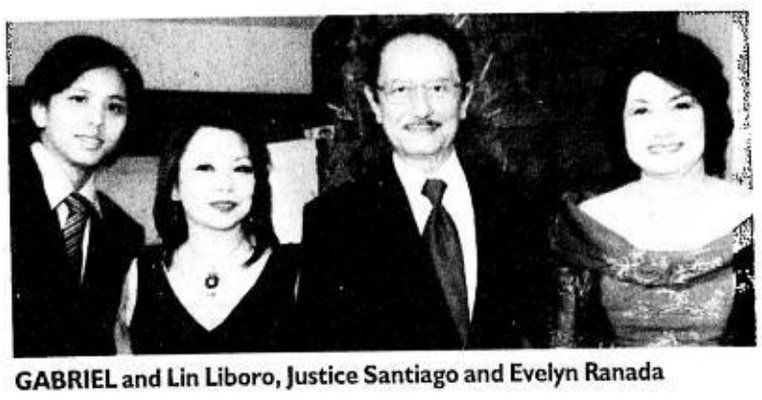
It has been 51 dazzling, bling-bling years, dahlings, for the well-respected Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines Inc., which had a grand bash at the chi-chi Polo Club.

And, as in the past, highlight of the event was the induction of new officers and directors.

The brilliant managing director of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, **Corazon J. Guerrero**, inducted the untiring, dedicated and efficient gentleman for all seasons **Luis I. Ablaza Jr.** of the popular Ablaza Pawnshop, who is now on his ninth term as president of the chamber, *palanggas*.

In his short speech, Luis A. stressed "the importance of active participation of the younger generation" and said "the introduction of new and vibrant ideas in the pawnshop business is what will extend our businesses even further."

The affair's mega guest of honor and speaker, Ambassador **Peter Beckingham** of the United Kingdom, came with his wife, adorable **Jill**, dahlings.


GABRIEL and Lin Liboro, Justice Santiago and Evelyn Ranada

ROSEMARIE B. Bonifacio

TESSIE Rodrigo and Nellie Liboro

SANTOS and UK's Ambassador Peter Beckingham

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Aprés the program superbly emceed by **Johnny Litton, Nonoy Lopez** and his band rocked the place to intensity 9, leaving the awesome invitees literally staggering out of the Polo Club way, way past Cinderella's bedtime, *palanggas*.

Nigel's 12 women

During the short visit of that tall, dashing international photographer and celebrity judge of the top-rating TV show "America's Next Top Model," **Nigel Barker** captured the fab images of 12 of the country's most beautiful women for the Philippine Tatler's July issue, *palanggas*.

The chosen ones were **Fely Atienza, Ina Ayala, Kit Zobel, Sofia Elizalde, Margarita Fores, Mandy Santos, Ruffa Gutierrez, Lucy Gomez, Vicky Zubiri, Carol Garcia, Kathy de Guzman** and **Maricris Zobel**.

They were asked to sit for Barker for this edition of the country's "ultimate arbiter of high society, taste and glamour," dahlings.

The two-cover edition of the Philippine Tatler is a collector's item. Ina Ayala and Kit Zobel are gracing the cover of a magazine for the first time. The "12 women photographed by Nigel Barker" will also be on exhibit at the lobby of Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center July 5-16. It will be at Alabang Town Center July 18-31.

The photographs will also be on the window display of Rustan's Department Store starting July 4. This laudable effort was made possible through the all-out support of Ayala Malls Inc. and Rustan's Essenses.

KIT Zobel

NIGEL Barker

SOFIA Elizalde

MARICRIS Zobel

INA Ayala

CAROL Garcia

Tea party

One of the first tea parties I've attended in our town was the *tres* elegant afternoon tea party that the Johann Strauss Society of the Philippines hosted at the sprawling residence of JSSP chair **Letty Syquia** to welcome honorary members from the chic diplomatic corps, and to introduce its officers, board members and advisory board, *palanggas*.

During the event, the forthcoming Dinner Dance Musicale for the benefit of the Cultural Center of the Philippines was announced.

As I sipped my jasmine tea, JSSP president **Fortune Aleta Ledesma** welcomed us and gave a brief history of the society, its vision and mission. "As the support arm of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, it raises funds for its audience development; scholarship and Arts for the People programs," she said.

CCP president **Nes Jardin** thanked the society for its support of CCP pet projects, and acknowledged the invaluable assistance of the committee composed of Letty S., Fortune L., **Olga Severino Martel** (vice president), **Agnes Huibonhoa** (secretary), **Chit Gohu** and **Cristina Belton**, whom he called his "angels."

Ambassador **Herbert Jaeger** of Austria, dean of the Board of Advisers, was pleased with the good work of the society and said, "I assure you of the full support of the Austrian Embassy."

The affair was emceed by **RJ Ledesma**. It included a musical presentation of Filipino and Spanish songs by wives of ambassadors like **Juliana Carolina Tandjung**, wife of the ambassador of Indonesia. **Juan Cerda Benitez**, administrative coordinator of the Mexican Embassy, sang a Mexican song.

Taipan **George Yang** performed operatic arias that brought loud, loud applause from the tea bunch, dahlings.

CLAUDE Haberer, Letty Syquia, Susan Maceda, Rod Cornejo and Nes Jardin

SOLEDAD Arias, Lovely Romulo, Sirima Senevirathna; (standing) Afia Quashem, Ambassador Erendira Paz Campos and Anila Khan

NICOLE Vornis, Martine Vardakis, Cosetta Fedele

TINA Carlos, taipan George Yang, shipping magnate Mila How and architect Gerry Contreras

RIA Ojeda, Josine Elizalde and Annie Sarthou

Macau magic

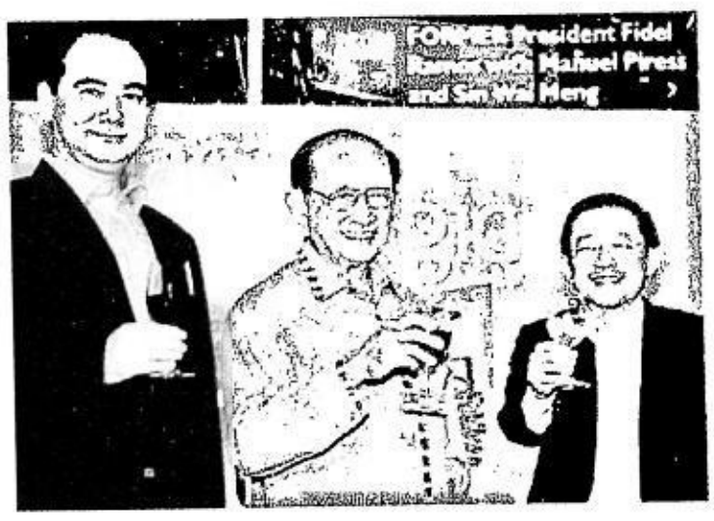
Tons of mall-goers had a glimpse of "Macau Magic" at The Podium. The exhibit showcases the works of four top Filipino artists—**Ben-Cab, Soler, Claude Tayag** and **Phyllis Zaballero**. It is a fantastic joint project of the Macau Government Tourism Office, The Podium and Finale Art, in cooperation with Joey 92.3, no less, dahlings.

The exhibit showcases Macau as "one of the most dynamic tourist destinations in the world," through the eyes of four renowned Filipino painters, including one National Artist.

Popular cyber-smart former President **Fidel Ramos** and MGTO deputy director **Manuel Piress** dotted the eye of the dragon during the opening ceremonies. It was followed by the ribbon-snipping, *palanggas*.

Joining them were MGTO-Philippines general manager **Narz Lim**, Keppel Properties Philippines president **Sin Wai Meng**, who represented The Podium, and the four artists.

The crowd of art lovers included **Viel Dee** and **Ballsy Cruz**, representing their mother, former President **Cory Aquino**; and women of substance and art collectors **Josine Elizalde**, with **Josie Lichauco, Ching Escaler**, and **Amalie Azanza**; plus others like them, dahlings.



MARIBEL Ongpin and writer Alfred Yuson

Your Doctor Knows Best

Eric Oliver D. Sison, MD, FPCC, FPCP

Question:

I was told that my high blood cholesterol puts me at risk for developing atherosclerosis. What is atherosclerosis and how does it affect my health?

Doctor says...

Atherosclerosis is the process in which deposits of fatty substances, cholesterol, calcium and other cellular waste products accumulate in the inner lining of the artery. The name comes from the Greek words *athero* (meaning gruel or paste) and *sclerosis* (hardness). As the name implies, this paste-like substance can build up and harden inside the artery and is called an atherosclerotic plaque.

Plaque can sometimes grow large enough to significantly reduce the blood flow through the artery. But more damage occurs when the plaque becomes fragile and ruptures. This causes blood clot to form over the rupture site which can completely block the blood flow or break off and lodge in another part of the vasculature. When either happens and blocks a blood vessel that feeds the heart, it causes a heart attack. If it blocks a blood vessel that feeds the brain, it causes a stroke. And if blood supply to the arms or legs is blocked, it can cause pain during walking, poor wound healing and eventually may lead to gangrene.

Atherosclerosis is a slow process, which usually starts in childhood and progresses at varying pace, as people grow older. It begins with damage to the endothelium (the inner lining of blood vessels). Causes of damage to the arterial wall include:

- Elevated levels of cholesterol and triglyceride
- High blood pressure
- Tobacco smoke
- Diabetes

Because of damage to the endothelium, fats, cholesterol, platelets, cellular waste products, calcium and other substances are deposited in the artery wall. This may stimulate the cell to produce substances which further cause further build up of the plaque.

The risk for developing atherosclerosis and its complications varies between individuals depending on their risk factors. Males, older people and those with family history of premature cardiovascular disease (e.g. heart attack, stroke) are at an increased risk. These risk factors cannot be controlled, but correcting the modifiable risks have been shown to reduce the risk of atherosclerosis and these include the following:

- Lowering high blood cholesterol (especially LDL "bad cholesterol" over 100 mg/dl.)
- Avoiding cigarette smoking or exposure to tobacco smoke
- Lowering high blood pressure (BP >140/90 mmHg)
- Controlling diabetes
- Reducing overweight or obesity
- Having regular physical activity/ exercise

Depending on the severity of the patient's risk factors and clinical condition, the doctor may prescribe medications for blood pressure and cholesterol reduction. This is in addition to adopting "lifestyle modification" which includes a heart healthy diet, regular physical exercise and avoidance of tobacco smoke. Just remember that it is never too early to adopt measures to lower our risk of atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. Always consult and follow the advice of your doctor.

Dr. Sison is an Interventional Cardiologist. He holds clinics at the UP-PGH Medical Center, Asian Hospital And Medical Center and University of Perpetual Help Rizal Medical Center, Las Pinas.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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AstraZeneca cares

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Wine, dine and shake it up!

IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE! AND it beckons us all to explore and enjoy.

Nothing wrong with having a big appetite for life as long as you choose only what's good for you.

Here are some guidelines to life's many pleasures:

It's in the blood

The human circulatory system is a network of arteries and veins leading from and to the heart that runs through every organ and cell of the body allowing blood to run freely.

Imagine if there are road blocks or detours. What will happen to the nutrients that blood carries to every cell? That is why it is often said the key to health is in the blood.

Studies have shown that people who live a life of moderation generally live longer.

Color guide to better health

When dining, it is best to go colorful. Foods with the brightest colors are high in nutritional content. For example, yellow/orange foods like squash, carrots, yams are rich in betacarotene (natural vitamin A).

Green foods such as romaine lettuce, spinach, broccoli and green beans are abundant in chlorophyll and vitamins B and C.

Purple/red foods, including red grapes and berries that have elagic acid, an anti-aging anti-oxidant, contain a variety of vitamins. Tomatoes have lycopene that strengthens the immune system.

Always look for color in your food such as salads, soups (but go easy on the creamy stuff), fruits.

Go lean

This means low fat. While roast beef is all right once in a long while, cut out the fat. And limit the gravy. Remove the extra fat in Peking duck skin.

Fish is best as main course. Go ahead and have dessert. A little sugar never hurts anyone. Just don't finish a whole serving by yourself. Share the sweet goodness.

Go red

For beverages, go red or yellow like cranberry or lemon juice. Both are great for cleansing the kidneys and the digestive system.

Gourmet rules are no longer rigid in the choice of wine so, with your health in mind, go for red. It contains resveratrol, an anti-oxidant. Recent studies made by Carlo Rossi, the California wine maker, found that resveratrol extended the life span of cells by activating their defense system and giving them more time to repair DNA broken by pollution, stress, toxic food, etc.

Red wine, when taken in moderation, also boosts the mood. Called the lover's drink for special reasons, it elevates the serotonin of the brain, causing the drinker to feel relaxed. One cannot go wrong with red wine as healthy beverage.

Shake things up

Exercise is one of the best ways to get healthy and stay young. If you cannot make time for a regular sport regimen or a brisk walk daily, how about a different kind of workout?

Sans weights and group classes, this regimen is considered high-technology and literally requires no effort.

At the Dream Body Spa, V-Mall, Greenhills, the latest machines on display will literally shake you. The lipolysis exerciser subjects the body to vibration therapy by sending vibrations all over.

Originally designed for Russian cosmonauts who, when in space, lost bone density and muscle tone, the therapy is now available to all. Just 20 minutes on the machine is equivalent to a one hour of aerobic workout without all that running and jumping. The hula chair, created by a Korean for his wife who had constipation, swings you around and works out the waist and abdomen. The far-infrared sauna, lined with hemlock fir, gives an outstanding detoxification experience. Call 7210001-02.

Affirm with your truth today: "All is as it should be for me—good and true and beautiful."

Love and light!

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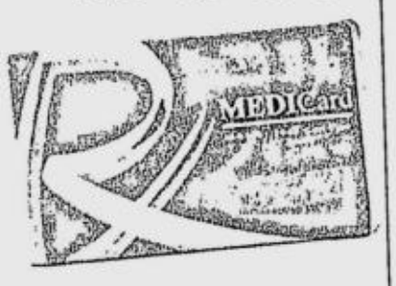
What are the requirements in donating blood?

Blood is the fluid of life transporting oxygen from the lungs to body tissue and carbon dioxide from body tissue to the lungs. The average adult has about five liters of blood living inside of their body, coursing through their vessels, delivering essential elements and removing harmful wastes. Without blood, the human body would stop working. Blood donation is a process by which a blood donor voluntarily has blood drawn for storage in a blood bank or for subsequent use in blood transfusion. Here are the requirements for blood donations: At least 45 kg (100 lbs) for male and female, 16 to 65 years old, temperature must not be more than 37 degrees Centigrade, Heart rate must be 60-100 per minute with regular rhythm, blood pressure must be bet. 90 to 160mmHg for systolic and 60 to 100mmHg for diastolic and Hemoglobin must be 125 to 170 grams per liter. If you meet all these physical requirements and pass the medical examination, you can donate blood. After donating blood, a few minutes rest before getting up is recommended, after which snacks can be taken. You can resume your usual activities immediately, unless your job requires you to be fully awake.. So, share your blood. It is especially rewarding when you know that someone out there needs your blood.



Dr. Julieta Jumarang provides us with this week's discussion on the requirements in donating blood. Dr. Jumarang, a medicine graduate of FEU-NRMF, had her residency training for Internal Medicine at the University of Perpetual Help Rizal Medical Center in 2003. She is affiliated with the Philippine College of Physicians and a member of the Philippine Medical Association and the Las Piñas Medical Society. Dr. Jumarang spends her free time burning calories in the gym, swimming and sometimes watching movies. MEDICard members may seek for her consultations in Room 4 at Metro South Medical Center every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am to 12 noon and every Tuesday 3-5 pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Will the east and west in medical practice never meet?

ONE THING I REALLY WISH TO SEE in the Philippines is a hospital offering both western and eastern treatment modalities and facilities.

It may take a long time before it becomes a reality, although I understand it already exists in a few countries.

There are a number of reasons why it is difficult for this type of hospital to be established here:

First, Philippine laws recognize only the western medicine as the legally accepted mode of treatment.

Second, schools of medicine do not teach eastern and other modalities of healing. Students graduate with practically no knowledge of other healing methods.

Third, Filipinos, especially in urban areas, have long accepted western medicine as the only effective means of treating disease.

Fourth, pharmaceutical companies lobby for the use of synthetic and chemical-based drugs that are supposed to be scientifically tested and validated.

Not validated

One of the objections raised against traditional and indigenous healing modalities is that they are mostly not validated under strict objective and controlled conditions.

Testimonials of users are considered very weak arguments for the effectiveness of a healing method.

While valid, this argument is not insurmountable. There are ways to analyze and validate scientifically the methods, as has been done with acupuncture.

Doctors cannot deny there are illnesses for which there are no known medical cure. There are also illnesses whose causes cannot be determined by medical instrument or laboratory analysis.

We can perhaps start with those ailments.

A well-known Filipino healer and psychic surgeon said there were two kinds of illnesses. One was caused by matter, like bacteria, germs, viruses, etc. The other, like unexplained lumps or bloating for which no medical cause could be found, was caused by a spirit.

Several years ago, a medical doctor I did not know personally, referred to me his patient because he did not know how to help her.

Baffling

He was completely baffled because the patient behaved strangely all of a sudden. Her eyes became red with anger, she shouted unintelligible words, cursed those around her and had the strength of several men, although she was physically frail.

This happened after she got close to a large tree while cleaning her yard.

It was a clear case of spirit possession to me. Her doctors knew nothing about such a phenomenon so they referred her to me.

I called a psychic friend who could see spirits and the disturbing entity was banished without difficulty. The patient had no knowledge of what she did or said during her trance-like state.

In England and Germany, I understand that homeopathy is an accepted modality of treatment even in hospitals.

In fact, Prince Charles of England is a known advocate of homeopathy.

This is a mode of treatment developed by a German researcher named Hanneman. He treated illnesses by using the same thing that caused it but diluting to almost zero the chemical composition of the original. In other words, only the energy or vibration remained.

Western medical doctors merely laughed at this method and called it "quackery." Yet it has remained an accepted treatment in several countries in Europe.

I hope to see the day when western-trained local doctors can practice what is best for their patients, whether such modalities come from the western or eastern tradition, as long as these are safe and effective.

The doctors of the future should not only be scientists but also shamans. I have already met several of these pioneering and extraordinary medical hybrids. May their tribe increase!

Note: The next Basic ESP & Intuition Development seminar will be at 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 7-8. Interested parties may call tel. nos. 8107245, 8926806, or fax 8159890; e-mail: innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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INSIDE

Pirates onscreen
Viewfinder /D3
Jeff Tan, in his mom's shoes /D4

DAPHNE Oseña-Paez, L, and Precious Lara Quigaman

WITH Mt. Everest expedition team members (from L) Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino

Wanted: Heroines

In a landscape awash with negativity, a new TV show wants to impart good news, for a change

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HOST DAPHNE OSEña-Paez looks lucid; still she feels the need to reiterate: "I'd have to be insane not to accept this show. Yes, I have a full plate: I have two kids and am producing and hosting another show ("Urban Zone" on ABS-CBN). But this show is too good to pass up on."

She's referring to the new QTV program, "Proudly Filipina," which premieres July 5, 8:30 p.m.

"It's about empowering women," she explains. "A show like this couldn't have come at a better time. The country needs heroes."

Or, in this case, heroines.

Paez continues: "Other shows focus on bad news and our people's suffering; our program seeks to celebrate being a Filipina."

Says Melo Esguerra, program unit manager: "We aim to highlight the struggles and success stories of Filipinas, to inspire all Filipinos."

Although the new show is "glossy," asserts Esguerra, the program seeks to go "beyond glitz and glamour."

Agrees director Tim Jimenez: "Although the visuals are attractive, I want a show with substance. I hope that our subjects' stories will enlighten the younger generation."

Among the featured Filipinas in the pilot episode are singer Regine Velasquez and Everest climbers Janet Belarmino, Carina Dayondon and Noelle Wenceslao. For future episodes, the lineup includes beauty queen Precious Lara Quigaman, athlete-actress Mikee Cojuangco and politician Darlene Custodio.

Anything at all

Guest Quigaman, who lost her dad before winning Miss International two years ago, notes: "Nothing is impossible, once we put our minds to it. We can do anything—especially if we have faith."

Paez points out: "We've seen these women in glossy magazines, but we don't know of their journey to the top. We can learn from them."

Paez herself picked up a lot from chatting with the Everest climbers. "Each one had so much to overcome. Janet left her three-month-old baby. Noelle lost her mother before training for the climb. Carina had always felt guilty about pursuing mountaineering instead of working to help her siblings."

The host recounts that her interview with former "F" co-host Angel Aquino was "surreal." "I know her life story, inside and out. She's a single mom and one of her daughters fell ill. Hers is a beautiful story."

Paez hopes that these stories will help redefine the word Filipina in the dictionary—from domestic helper to nurturer *and* achiever.

"Our tagline says: remarkable, inspiring, real. I think the word that stands out the most is 'real.' Whether she's a celebrity or not, every Filipina has a story. It doesn't matter whether she's a housewife or the president."

Speaking of which, a dream interview of Paez's is Corazon Aquino, housewife-turned-president.

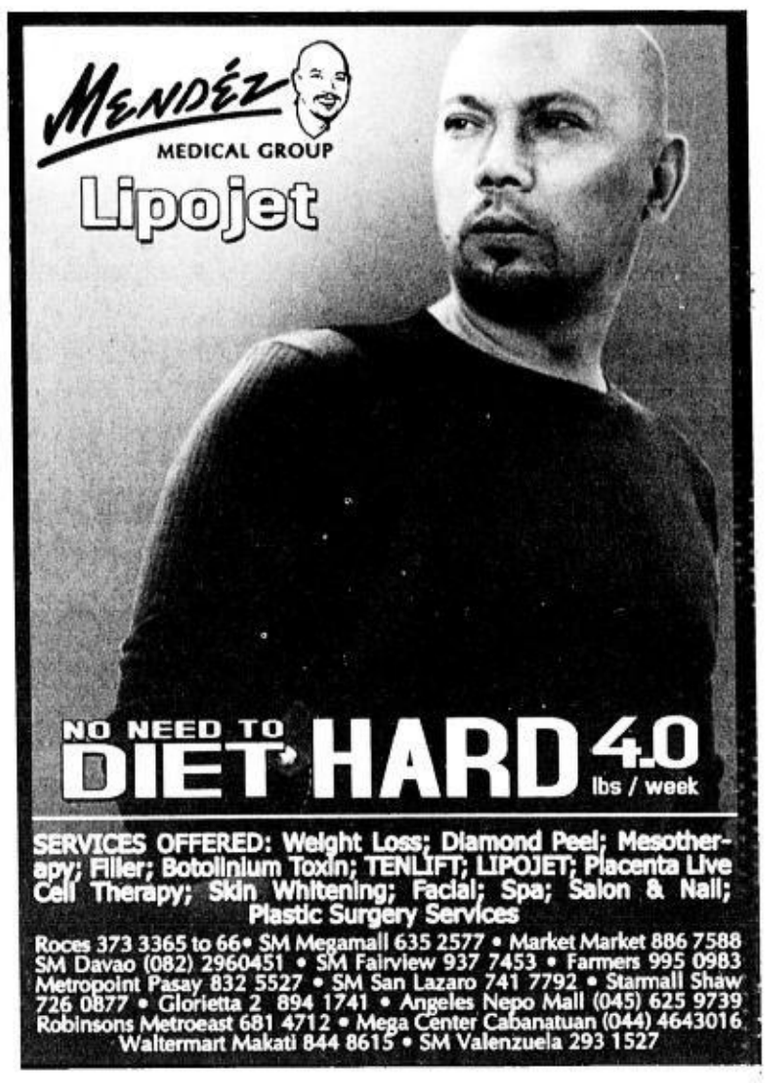
Paez wants to set the record straight: "Critics may say that I'm Canadian, so why am I hosting a show called 'Proudly Filipina'? I have dual citizenship. I grew up in Canada, but I think it's more relevant that I've come home with my education (Urban Planning and Art History) and have decided to work here."

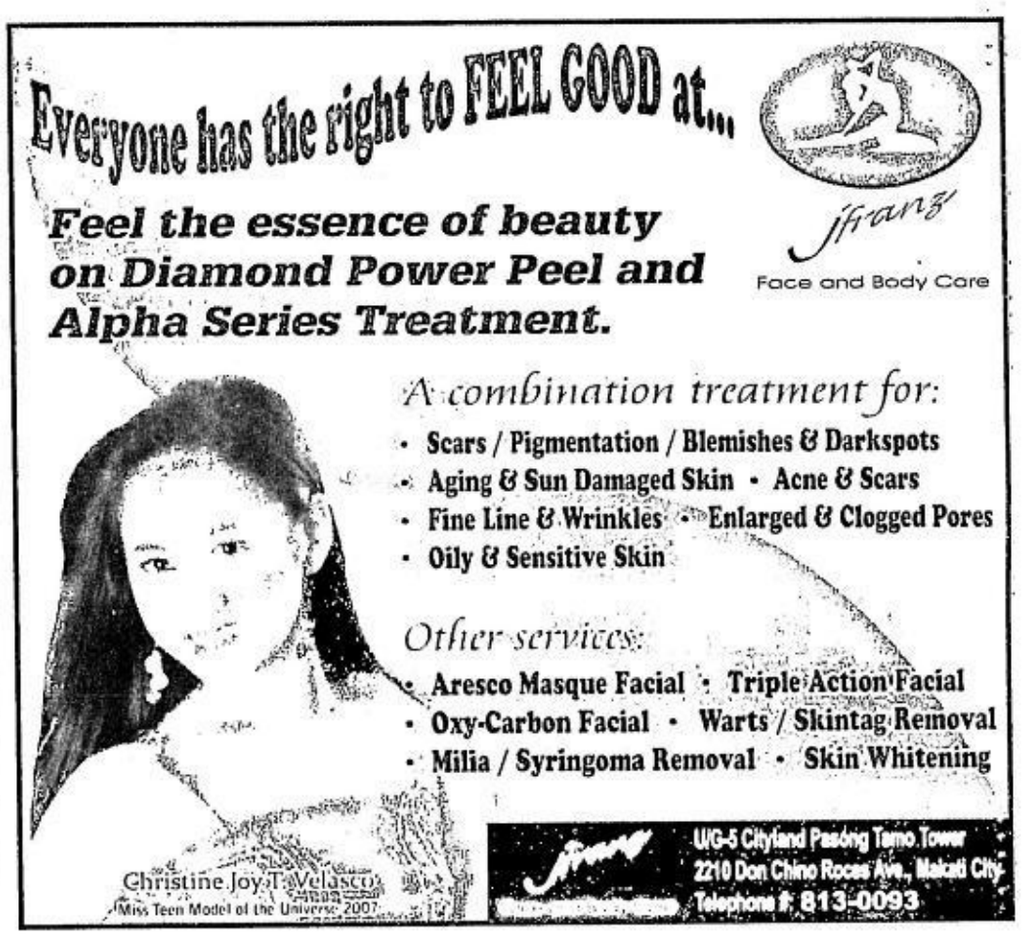
A male director

Another crucial point: Why a male director for a woman's show?

Jimenez clarifies: "I grew up in a family of empowered women. (Mom is advertising exec Loy Jimenez and aunt is INQUIRER editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.) My wife also encouraged me to accept this project."

As Esguerra and Paez have pointed out: "This show aims to inspire Filipinas and Filipinos alike."





Amalia: At my age, I don't need a man

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MY HEART GOES OUT TO MY beloved Tita Nena (**Amalia Fuentes**). She has parted ways with Tito Joey Stevens, her husband of 28 years.

She laments, "I guess that 75-year-old relic needs his GF for his ego. At my age, I don't need a man anymore. But come to think of it, I am eight years younger than Joey. I should be the one having an affair!"

Tita Nena says she has found out who the girl is. "She's **Angie Aznar** Sierra from Cebu. I just wonder how her Italian husband and kids feel."

Knowing Tita Nena, she will bounce back gracefully. When all this is over, the legendary queen of Philippine cinema will be swept off her feet by a man worthy to be her king.

Not even a thousand Angies can ever dethrone La Amalia from the hearts of her adoring fans.

Breakup, too

IT MUST be the season for breakups. Somebody privy to the split of **Nyoy Volante** and **Nina** tipped me off about the possible cause of their failed romance.

"Nina and the brother of her guitarist **Dard Enriquez** Coy got too close for comfort. It all started when Nina bought a car from Coy's family. Nina and Coy spent a lot of time together fixing up the car. I think Coy left his girlfriend Vida for Nina," my source reveals.

In a previous column, Nyoy refused to disclose details of their breakup. I texted Nina but got no reply. Only the two really know why they decided to call it quits.

What an uncanny coincidence, though, that Coy rhymes with Nyoy and Nina sounds like Vida.

Paolo's ex

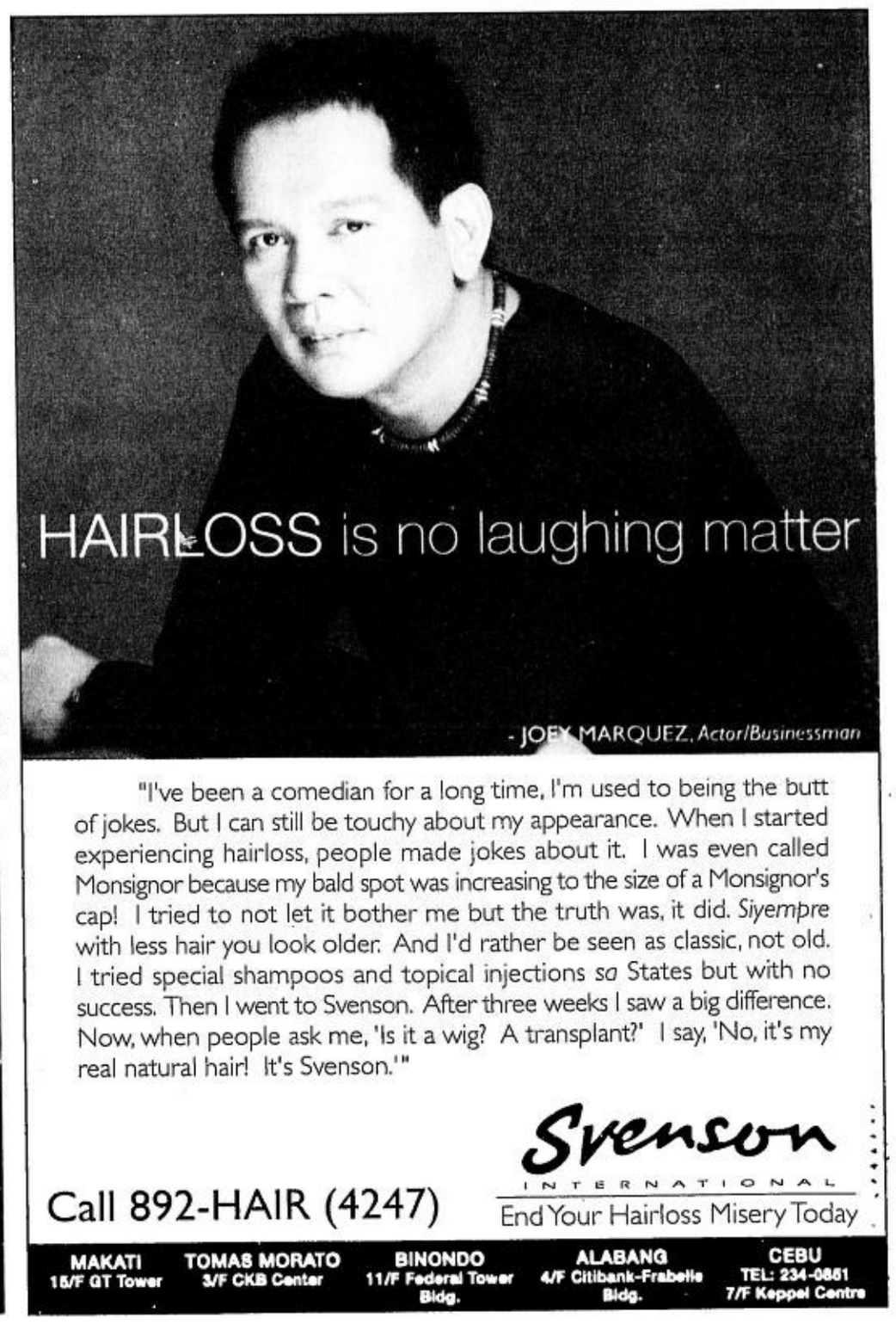
PBB's "naughty girl" **Wendy Valdez** was the apple of **Paolo Bediones'** eye many heartbeats ago. I happened to be with Wendy at a party when Pao called her up. It was just a short-lived fling. But now that Wendy is in the limelight, will Pao go "Tok tok tok" at the PBB house and ask her out again?

After dad

KAT KAT de Castro takes after her dad (VP Noli) when it comes to drive and dedication. She is at the helm of their Bayan Productions, which continues to come up with high-quality programs that inform, educate and entertain. She also hosts the reality-based travel show "Trip na Trip" with Uma Khouny and Jayson Gainza (Fridays, 11:30 p.m., ABS-CBN 2), which focuses on unexplored places in the country.

Bayan Prods also has a show for budding entrepreneurs called "Kabuhayang Swak na Swak" (Saturdays, 7 a.m. and Sundays, 8 a.m., ABS-CBN, with replays in five regions on TFC) hosted by Amy Perez. Their lifestyle show "Urban Zone" (Sundays, 12 midnight, ABS-CBN, with replays in five regions on TFC), which features design and interiors on the urban

AMALIA/ D3



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7 (DOLBY DOLBY) NEXT
8 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
9 (DOLBY) INVISIBLE
10 (DOLBY) BUG

Blue Wave MARKIPLACE

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC 4
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC 4

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 BUG
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 EVANGELINE KATORSE

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WILDERNESS
3 EVANGELINE KATORSE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3293 / 833.3274

1 NEXT
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Center Mall Cinema

Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 TRANFORMERS
2 TRANFORMERS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 WILDERNESS
3 (DTS EX) TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 ANGELS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) TRANFORMERS
2 (DOLBY) TRANFORMERS
3 (DOLBY) TRANFORMERS
4 (DOLBY) TRANFORMERS

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY / ANGELS
2 (DTS) TRANSFORMERS
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
4 (DTS) TRANSFORMERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR / ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
2 TRANSFORMERS

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 BORDERTOWN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 CAPE KARMA
4 (DTS) BORDERTOWN

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
3 (DTS) FIREHOUSE DOG
4 ZU WARRIOR
5 TRANSFORMERS

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 INVISIBLE
2 WILDERNESS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 TRANSFORMERS

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 EVANGELINE KATORSE
2 CHECK INN

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PROMENADE

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CINEMA 4: TRANSFORMERS 11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50 GP

CINEMA 5: TRANSFORMERS 11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10 GP

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August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM

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June 29 July 06, 13, 20 & 27 August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

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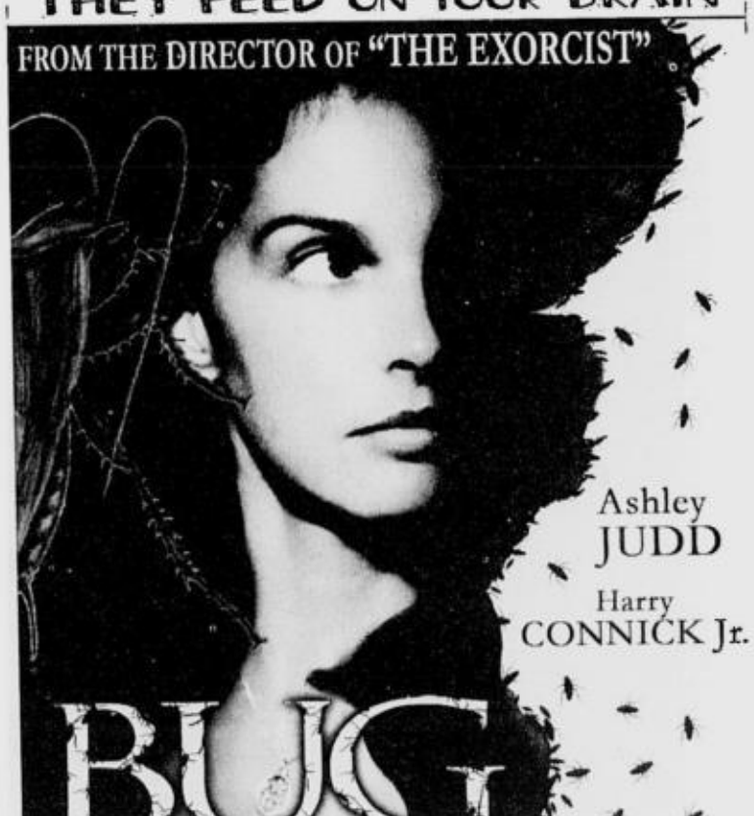

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3 TRANSFORMERS 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 GP

4 TRANSFORMERS 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20 GP

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Pirates onscreen—then and now

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YOUNG ADULT FANS OF **JOHNNY DEPP** and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films may be surprised to learn that the sassily entertaining troika of seafaring and swashbuckling movies didn't exactly create the genre of pirate flicks.

In fact, they're spoofing a very long line of flicks about buccaneers that hail all the way back to 1926, when Hollywood's first swashbuckler, **Douglas Fairbanks**, starred in "The Black Pirate."

Douglas played the sole survivor of a mid sea raid by buccaneers, after which he swore vengeance on all pirates.

In 1934, **Robert Donat** followed up with the quintessential "The Count of Monte Cristo," which told the seething story of the tormented Edmund Dantes. Betrayed and imprisoned for years for smuggling a letter to the exiled Napoleon, Dantes escapes—and reinvents himself as a mysterious count to stage an elaborate revenge.

In 1935, **Errol Flynn** made his first appearance as a pirate in "Captain Blood." This screen debut is deemed auspicious, because Flynn eventually became Hollywood's epitome for the pirate genre.

In "Captain Blood," he plays the compassionate Peter Blood, a doctor who's falsely accused of treason and sold into slavery.

He then transforms himself into the original pirate of the Caribbean.

In 1937, it was **Ronald Colman**'s turn to go the swashbuckling route in "The Prisoners of Zenda." In the film, Colman plays both the King of Ruritania and his illegitimate, look-alike English cousin, who helps him keep his throne.

Note that the themes of imprisonment and revenge figure strongly in the ethos of pirate movies—which could help explain why their protagonists are generally more colorful and dynamic than people who don't swash and buckle.

Landmark movies

Other landmark pirate movies: "The Crimson Pirate" (**Burt Lancaster**); "Scaramouche" (**Stewart Granger**); and "Rob Roy" (**Richard Todd**).

Despite the onus of time and fading memory, Errol Flynn is still the movie pirate of choice for many film buffs, as he combined expert swordsplay with a roguish temperament that captured the feckless freedom a pirate sailing the seven seas.

It's this giddy sense of freedom that made male moviegoers envy the roguishly handsome screen hero—and his devil-may-care attitude lit a hot firecracker for the blushing women in the audience.

Flash-forward to the New Millennium, and we have the unique contribution to the pirate syndrome that Johnny Depp has made. His character is similar to Flynn's in his roguishness, but utterly different in terms of looks and mind-set.

Flynn's pirate character was sassy but hero-handsome, with perfect, dazzling-white teeth beaming for all to marvel at.

On the other hand, Depp's swashbuckler is definitely not dapper. In fact, he conjures up intimations of a male version of a Jamaican crone who tells fortunes—and a plate of sublimely moldering and smelly French cheese.

He looks like he hasn't taken a bath since his baptism, acts and talks like he's on uppers, and gives the pirate syndrome a distinctly bad name—and scent.

And yet viewers love him. What gives?

Well, Depp's characterization of Capt. Jack Sparrow is precisely a shameless spoof of that syndrome, a send-up perfectly right for these giddily cynical times. Errol Flynn has flown, and Depp's odoriferous, spaced-out, gender-bender pirate "queen" is perfect for our current age of rampant film piracy—and is here to stay.

Amalia: At my age, I don't . . .

From page D1

landscape, is hosted by **Daphne Osena**.

What lesson, I ask, did her dad teach her about work?

Kat de Castro says, "*Wag akong maging kampante na sya ang* dad *ko*. I should make a name for myself."

Apparently, the vice president's charming daughter's "vice" is nothing but hard work. What a nice vice!

Myra girl

EVEN after **Isabel Oli**'s split-up with **Paolo Contis**, she remains blooming as Myra E lotion's new girl.

"No more P in my life. Just E. Vitamin E," she says. Isabel is surely an "TI" girl. But she refuses to let fame get into her pretty head. "At the end of the day, I'm still a dutiful daughter. When I'm free, I fly to Singapore to visit my parents and sisters who are based there."

With all the "pasaway" young stars around, Isabel is one and OLI in the well-behaved department.

Back on track

AFTER a brief acting hiatus, **Jericho Rosales** is back with a bang. "I got burned out. But I'm ready to face the cameras again. Music became therapeutic to me."

His band Jeans' music video of the song "Tuwing Nakikita Ka," which he directed, was shot using a cell phone camera. Echo's GF **Heart Evangelista** did the camera work.

Lights, camera, love in action!

E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com.

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1 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
2 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30
3 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 2:20, 5:10, 8:00
4 TRANSFORMERS MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
FANTASTIC FOUR 1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00
TRANSFORMERS – G 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
TRANSFORMERS – G 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00
TRANSFORMERS – G 2:30,5:30,8:30
BUG – R13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05
TRANSFORMERS – G 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30
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BUG 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50
THE INVISIBLE 3:00 / 7:40
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 10:00
OCEAN'S 13 12:30 / 5:10 / 9:50
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
NEXT 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50
TRANSFORMERS 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
Platinum Cinema
Ximall 5
1 NEXT 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45
2 TRANSFORMERS 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
4 CAPE KARMA 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 BUG 12:20 R3 / 1:55 / 4:10 / 6:25 / 8:40
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OPENS JULY 11

SCREENING TIME	JULY 11 WEDNESDAY	JULY 12 THURSDAY	JULY 13 FRIDAY	JULY 14 SATURDAY	JULY 15 SUNDAY	JULY 16 MONDAY	JULY 17 TUESDAY
11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective showing schedules.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX Theatre
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 NEXT
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 BUG
PREMIERE CINEMA OCEAN'S 13
CENTERSTAGE TRANSFORMERS
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1 TRANSFORMERS
CINEMA 2 TRANSFORMERS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 NEXT
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 OCEAN'S 13
9 BUG
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 INVISIBLES

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 BUG
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12 NEXT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ANGELS
2 WILDERNESS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 NEXT
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12 BUG

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 BUG
8 INVISIBLES
9 NEXT
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 INVISIBLES
5 NEXT
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 INVISIBLES
8 NEXT
9 BUG

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 NEXT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 ANGELS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 BUG
12 INVISIBLES

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FRACTURE
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 NEXT
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

John McClane is on a mission to unravel the identity of the mysterious figure who hacks all computer systems to shut down the entire tech-dependent nation.
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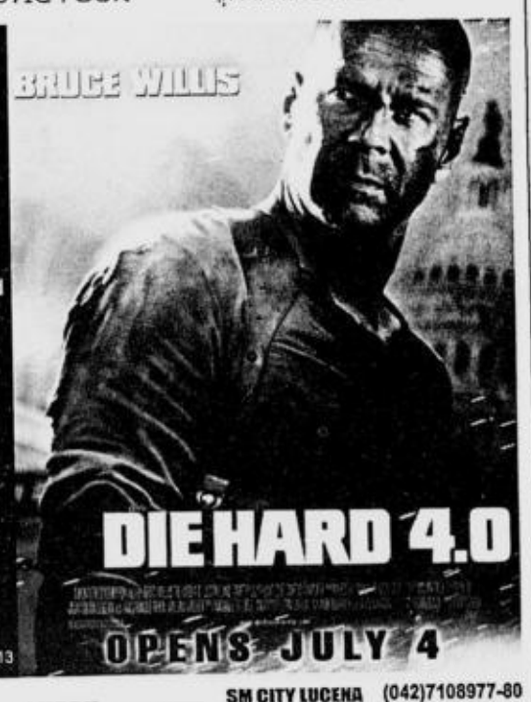

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 NEXT
6 INVISIBLES
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 ANGELS
6 INVISIBLES

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ANGELS
4 TRANSFORMERS

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 INVISIBLES
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 ANGELS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 FRACTURE
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 LUCKY YOU/ FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PERFECT STRANGER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 LUCKY YOU
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 NEXT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 FRACTURE
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 INVISIBLES
6 CONDEMNED
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
5 INVISIBLES
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 TRANSFORMERS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LUCKY YOU
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 BORDERTOWN

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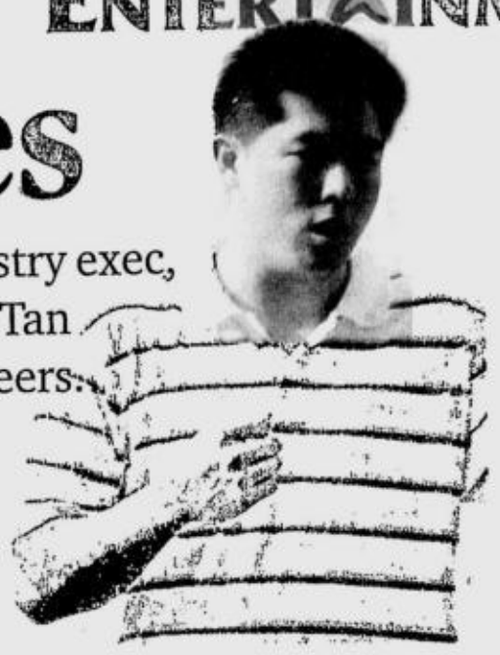
In her shoes

Jeff Tan, a third-generation music industry exec, is finding out how his mother, Bella Dy-Tan helped local artists build successful careers.



JEFF TAN, left

FROM L, Jojo Alejar, Allan Elgar and Lougee of Mojofly and Tan, Amber Davis and Ali Alejandro of Mojofly

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

FOR JEFF TAN, IT'S NOT EASY BEING the son of a well-loved music industry figure.

His mother, the late Bella Dy-Tan, once headed Universal Records, the major label whose top-selling artists include Parokya Ni Edgar, Gary Valenciano and Jose Mari Chan.

Until she fell ill several years ago and succumbed to cancer on April 26, 2005, Bella was known for being a workaholic and a hands-on boss who handled business with a warm, personal touch.

"She usually worked till 3 a.m.," Jeff recalls. "*Mas grabe pa dati, umaabot ng* 5 a.m.! *Minsan nga nagtatampo ako, kasi puro na lang siya trabaho*... But now I understand. It was passion for work that motivated my mom so much..."

Jeff believes now is the time for him to carry on that passion.

For the past year, he has been busy starting up Bellhaus Entertainment Inc., which began as a record label but is now described as "a creative communication and entertainment company."

Aside from being named after his mother, Jeff says the concept behind Bellhaus likewise came from Bella. "The idea was not only to sign up talents and produce their works, but also to manage and develop their careers. The groundwork was already laid down when she was alive, but was put on hold when she got sick. What I did was refine the idea until it was ready to take off."

STAR-BUILDER. Bella Dy-Tan, former Universal Records head, conducted business with a warm, personal touch. "All I do now is for her," Jeff says.

At present, Bellhaus has three artists and one band under its wing: former teen idol turned TV talk show host Jojo Alejar, Fil-American R&B singer Amber Davis, "Philippine Idol" finalist Drae Ybañez and the pop-rock group Mojofly.

Jeff says he is currently negotiating with a top TV network for Alejar's quirky TV program, "Jojo A: All the Way," to be shown to a wider audience here and abroad. The show has gained a cult following on the RJ TV cable channel, but suffers from inferior video quality. There are plans to reformat the show and make it more attractive to Filipinos overseas.

Davis is being groomed to attract a bigger audience and initial moves have begun with his recent co-hosting stint in "Wowowee."

Ybañez's singing skills will be further developed before he records his debut album.

And Mojofly is reportedly due to be repackaged soon.

Jeff admits that running his own company poses a big challenge—one that also makes him very conscious of his role as a young player in show business. "People are bound to say, '*Anak ni* Bella *yan*...' I feel the expectations are high and it will be very embarrassing to be a failure."

Jeff adds that his decision to form a separate company from Universal was taken well by its management.

When he was in high school, all Jeff wanted to do was play golf. When Bella suggested he study filmmaking, Jeff enrolled in a digital filmmaking course at La Salle's College of St. Benilde.

Film background

His background in film was put to good use when he started directing music videos for some artists at Universal Records. Then Regal Films tapped him to direct "White Lady," a horror flick and his first full-length feature.

Jeff says he can put his filmmaking skills to good advantage in Bellhaus. "Since I'm a director, I know how to package our talents... how to think in visual terms... For the longest time I tried learning about the technical side of audio recording at Universal, but it's hard to absorb what the sound engineers were doing... I'm really more of a visual person."

The vision he wants to fulfill is for Bellhaus to be known as a breeding ground for Pinoy artists who will not only succeed at home, but also capture the sizeable market of Filipinos living overseas.

"It's something my mom always talked about," Jeff points out, "especially when the local music industry was hit hard by piracy in the 1990s. And she also harped on the importance of how to nurture artists, how to take good care of them and make the company profitable, and that the best way to do it was to solidify the relationship by managing their careers."

What does he look for in an artist?

"Gut feel *yan eh. Ngayon naguguluhan ako sa industriya. Nag*-click *lang si* Sitti *sa* bossa nova, *lahat na naglabas ng kung anu-anong* bossa nova... What I'd like to see is an industry that can stimulate the market by releasing different kinds of music."

In hindsight, Jeff feels grateful to be given the chance to start something that runs in the family's bloodline.

The son fondly looks back again to his conversations with his mother, the eldest and favorite daughter of James Dy (the patriarch who opened an electronics store in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which became Dyna Records).

"My mom started out in the stock room packing records and tapes for distribution," he says. "She said everything she did was for my grandfather... Now, everything I'm doing is for her. She left a legacy that I intend to continue."

AT THE CINEMAS

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GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS		
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS	5 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THE INVISIBLE	4 TRANSFORMERS
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	AV Surfer Exhibit July 1 to 15, 2007
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Ayala MUSEUM	Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008 Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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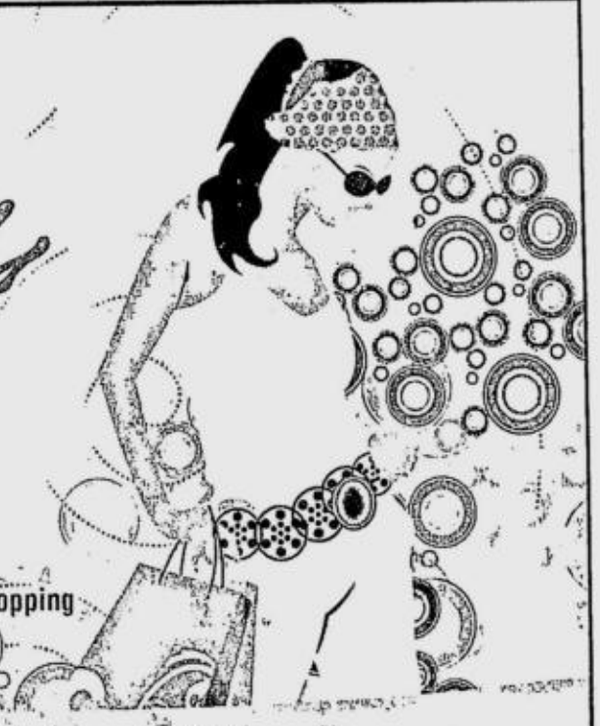

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MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME VIOLENCE MAY PROVE TO BE STRESSFUL TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.

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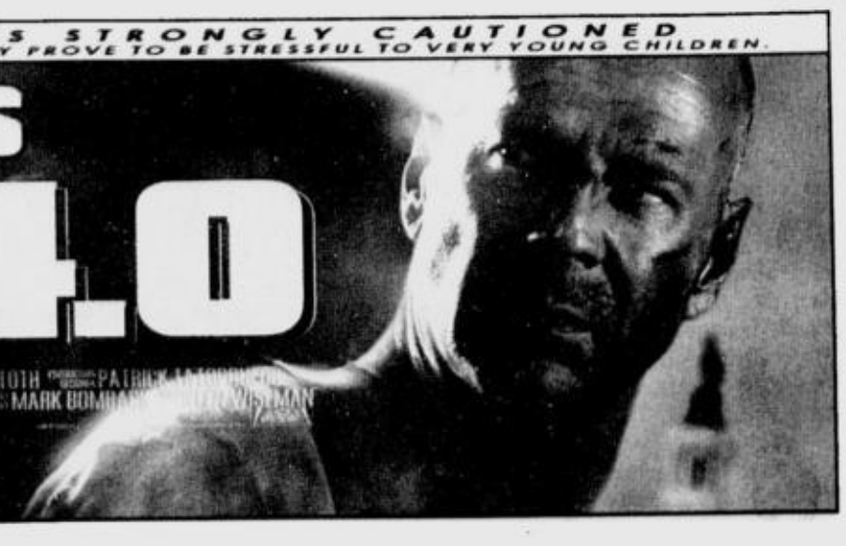


OPENS TOMORROW

BUSINESS / B1

As market sets all-time high, RP's Pepsi going public

WORLD / A24

6 doctors linked to UK bomb plot

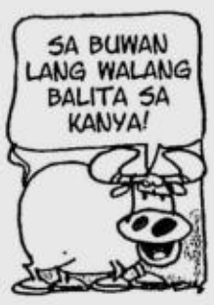
ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Willie Nep: Man of many presidential faces on why he's not doing GMA

ENTERTAINMENT / E6

'It's all about what my mother loved in life,' says Prince William at Diana concert

Fed up with Paris Hilton, newscaster rips script



WASHINGTON—SHE'S mad as hell, and she can't take it anymore.

A US newscaster refused to lead her program with a story about Paris Hilton, arguing she was fed up with the excessive media attention giv-

FED UP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 4, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 206 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

MILF troops pull out from search for Bossi

By Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*
Julie S. Alipala and Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

THE MILITARY HAS BEEN LEFT TO ITS OWN DEvices in the search for Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) pulled out its forces from the boundary of the two Lanao provinces where gunmen are believed to be holding the kidnapped priest.

MILF/ A17

DAY OF RECKONING comes and goes for Lintang Bedol but he has yet to "cringe like a cornered rat," like the Comelec said it would make the man who's at the center of the Maguindanao electoral mystery do. A relaxed Bedol wearing a broad smile neither looks cornered nor cringy during his appearance at the Comelec on Tuesday. REM ZAMORA

Lintang Bedol free again

Comelec does not confront him

By Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR 20 MINUTES HE STOOD BEFORE HIS ACcusers, dressed in a red and white checkered shirt and white pants, one-eyed and tongue-tied.

When it was all over, Lintang Bedol—the man who could unravel the Maguindanao vote mystery—stepped out a free man.

After all the hype over his arrest and a boast by election commissioners to make the controversial Maguindanao provincial poll supervisor "cringe like a cornered rat," all they could get from Bedol was a simple plea of not guilty—and it was not even he who made it but his lawyer.

Instead of frontally confronting him for his failure to appear in previous hearings, the Comelec en banc gave Bedol 10 working days to file a written explanation as to why he should not be held in "indirect contempt."

Even Malacañang didn't seem to want to lay a glove on Bedol. Instead, it urged caution against drawing any premature conclusions on the case.

LINTANG/ A17

Palace to defer antiterror law for lack of rules

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG IS LIKELY TO POSTPONE the implementation of the controversial Human Security Act (HSA), initially scheduled in mid-July, because its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) have yet to be formulated and public discussions on its ramifications conducted, a National Security Council official said yesterday.

In an effort to make the law acceptable to the public, the government will also hold the Mindanao Peace and Security Summit on July 8-10 in Cagayan de Oro City, Cabuay said.

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to attend the summit on the third day.

"The law may not be implementable by July 15. It has to go through some requirements," Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay said yesterday.

Another requirement that the HSA or Republic Act No. 9372, "An Act to Secure the State and Protect our People from Terrorism,"

PALACE/ A17

High court rejects Ong appointment

By Leila B. Salaverria

SANDIGANBAYAN JUSTICE GREgory Ong is barred from serving in the highest court of the land until he has shown he is a natural-born Filipino and corrected through the courts the entry in his birth certificate that states his citizenship is Chinese, the Supreme Court said yesterday in a unanimous decision.

But the decision does not invalidate Ong's position as a justice of the antigraft court because it is presumed that his appointment to that collegiate body was valid, according to Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez.

The ruling paves the way for the appointment to the high court of another person in place of Ong, Marquez said.

The high court voted 13-0 in favor of the petition filed by the Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan foundations, led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga and Emilio Capulong, respectively, to stop President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Ong to replace retired Justice Romeo Callejo.

Ong, 54, would have been Ms Arroyo's 12th appointee to the tribunal.

ONG: He has to prove he's a natural-born Filipino. PDI PHOTO

Reached on the phone last night, Ong said: "I am truly saddened by the decision of the high court, but I respect it.

"I am a Filipino. I lived and will live my life as a Filipino, and I raised my children as law-abiding Filipinos."

He hinted of a future action in response to the tribunal's ruling, saying: "I have yet to talk to my lawyer."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "While

HIGH COURT/ A11

PAF museum inspires patriotism

By Tarra Quismundo

YOU CAN SIT IN A FIGHTER JET'S narrow cockpit, grip the controls and watch the ground disappear as the plane takes off on a 15-minute simulated flight. Later, you can stand just a step away from the battlefield, where rifles and bazookas open fire at unseen enemy forces.

Indeed, you can see, hear and feel history in the new Aerospace Museum of the Philippine Air Force (PAF)—a repository of artifacts of flight in times of both war and peace and memorabilia for the men and women who fought to keep Philippine aviation aloft.

The new house of history, a more spacious replacement for the old PAF museum built in 1974, opened on Friday with simple rites attended by then Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PAF officials and project partners from the private sector.

Held in time for the PAF's 60th anniversary, the opening was the long-awaited culmination of almost 10 years of planning, design and construction occasionally hampered by funding cuts and delays.

"A museum is supposed to keep the memory of the past, of significant events that happened in a

PAF MUSEUM/ A10

FLY HIGH: A world-class aerospace museum at Villamor Air Base opens its doors on the 60th founding anniversary of the Philippine Air Force on Tuesday after 20 years of planning, designing and construction. JESS YUSON

All diets have same result, says US study

WASHINGTON—LOOKING FOR that perfect diet?

Here's the bad news: All diets have just about the same result, and none of them are great, US researchers reported on Monday.

A typical diet helps people lose an average of 6 percent of their weight, typically 5 to 7 kg (10 to 15 pounds), and most people put it all back on after five years.

Weight-loss drugs are similarly ineffective in the long run, said Dr. Michael Dansinger of the Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston.

"It's disappointing, but I am optimistic that we can do better in the future. We are learning some of the factors that improve the effectiveness (of diets)," said Dansinger, whose study was published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

The news is bad for those who have hoped a gentler approach to dieting may be more effective over the long term.

Even so, Dansinger's research found programs that made peo-

ALL DIETS/ A11

Bush spares Cheney aide from prison term

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush has spared former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby from a 2 1/2-year prison term in the CIA leak investigation, delivering a political thunderbolt in the highly charged criminal case. Bush said the sentence was too harsh.

Bush's move came just five hours after a federal appeals panel ruled that Libby could not delay his prison term. That put new pressure on Bush, who had been sidestepping calls by Libby's allies to pardon Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Bush's decision showed the President "condones criminal conduct."

Bush's announcement came just as prison seemed likely for Libby. He recently lost an appeals court fight that was his best chance of putting the sentence on hold, and the Bureau of Prisons had already designated him inmate No. 28301-016.

"I respect the jury's verdict," Bush said in a statement. "But I have concluded that the prison sentence given to Mr. Libby is excessive. Therefore, I am commuting the portion of Mr. Libby's sentence that required him to spend thirty months in prison."

The leak case has hung over

BUSH/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2007

EZ2 SIX DIGIT
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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/03/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Koko withdraws SC petition

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING HE HAS BEEN "ENLIGHTENED," GENUINE Opposition senatorial candidate Aquilino Pimentel III has withdrawn his petition asking the Supreme Court to exclude Maguindanao votes from the Senate tally and to declare the winner for the 12th spot without these figures.

The high court yesterday approved Pimentel's motion to withdraw his petition.

"There's no more petition. The court granted the motion to withdraw," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez told reporters.

In his motion to withdraw his petition, Pimentel said that since he was filing new pleadings at the Commission on Elections, he wanted to avoid being accused of forum shopping.

TRO denied

"The petitioner, enlightened by the exchange of ideas during the oral arguments regarding the application for TRO held on June 28, 2007, has decided to pursue some of the identified possible remedies, to find out if indeed these are plain, speedy and adequate remedies under the petitioner's present circumstances," he said.

On Thursday, the high court denied Pimentel's plea for a temporary restraining order to stop the canvassing of votes from Maguindanao because the procedure in gathering the election documents that were tallied was illegal. He also said the election documents were manufactured and untrustworthy.

But in refraining from issuing a TRO, the high court said Pimentel presented no proof that the election documents were manufactured. It also said the poll body has "considerable latitude" in adopting rules to fulfill its duty of promoting free, orderly and honest elections.

The Comelec has since continued the canvassing of Maguindanao votes, which narrowed Pimentel's lead over closest rival, administration candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri.

With Zubiri poised to become this year's 12th senator-elect, House of Representatives firebrand Didagen Dilangalen has this advice to Pimentel: Just file an election protest.

Dilangalen, now the representative-elect of the new province of Sharif Kabunsuan, said the Comelec proceedings in Maguindanao that caused Pimentel's lead over Zubiri to dwindle steadily "were all legal."

Perfectly legal

"That's the reason why the Supreme Court didn't stop the canvassing of the votes in Maguindanao. It was perfectly legal," said Dilangalen, a lawyer.

"Now, the winner should be proclaimed and if there was indeed cheating then a protest should be filed. Proclaim first, protest later. That's the law," he told the INQUIRER.

Dilangalen said Zubiri would win since the still to be canvassed areas appear to be Zubiri's bailiwicks.

Dilangalen said he remains an oppositionist despite his pronouncements.

"My party is still the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (Estrada's party) and I only make these comments as a matter of fact. It is the reality based on the law," Dilangalen said.

Zubiri's allies in the House majority also said he would eventually be proclaimed the 12th senatorial winner.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles of Davao City and Rep. Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur said they expect Zubiri to land in the 12th slot since the bulk of the remaining uncanvassed votes will come from Maguindanao where TU bets garnered a 12-0 win.

Senate opposition rift breaks wide open

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE RIFT IN THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE has broken wide open.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday demanded that fellow opposition Senators Manuel Villar, Jinggoy Estrada, Alan Peter Cayetano and Francis Escudero explain why they decided to hook up with the Senate coalition dominated by administration senators.

In an interview with reporters, Lacson said: "There's nothing wrong with them choosing either Villar or (Aquilino) Pimentel (Jr.) or whomever from the opposition (for Senate president); what is unacceptable is their decision to turn their backs on our deal not to break apart and join the administration."

Preempt caucus

Villar, anticipating that majority of the opposition senators would pick Pimentel for Senate President, has obtained the support of eight administration senators—Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Lito Lapid, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Richard Gordon—and two independents—Gregorio Honasan and Francis Pangilinan.

With three opposition senators in his fold, Villar was able to preempt a caucus scheduled by the opposition last week to select a common candidate for Senate President.

In a phone interview, Estrada refuted Lacson's allegation, saying his support of Villar did not mean he was allying himself with the administration.

"Do you expect me to join the administration? No way," Estrada said.

In a text message, Escudero said: "Since when did I join the administration? I ran under the opposition. I am an opposition and I will stay with the opposition."

Lacson said that no amount of explaining would change the fact the four had joined the administration.

"It is clear that they left the ranks of the opposition to shift to the administration," he said.

"Whatever their reasons, they should explain to the people who voted for them because they had presented themselves as belonging to the opposition," he said.

'Crossed to the other side'

Lacson then aimed his tirade at Villar, whom he blamed for the breakup of the opposition in the Senate.

While other opposition senators may have tried to get the backing of the administration bloc for a run at the Senate presidency, Lacson said Villar betrayed the opposition when he solicited the support of the "other side" after agreeing to commit to a common opposition candidate.

"He had already talked to President [Macapagal-] Arroyo and arrived at a deal before [he talked to] us who were supposed to be his allies.

"When he was warned that (losing the Senate presidency) could adversely affect his political career, he crossed to the other side," Lacson said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Villar for comment but his mobile phone went unanswered.

One good thing that came out of the apparent betrayal by the four senators, Lacson said, was the strengthening of the bond among the remaining eight opposition members in the Senate—himself, Pimentel, Jamby Madrigal, Manuel Roxas, Rodolfo Biazon, Benigno Aquino III, Loren Legarda and Antonio Trillanes IV.

Battle of agendas for 2010 hopefuls

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A BATTLE OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS has emerged between two senators in what appears to be a prelude to their 2010 presidential ambitions.

Senate President Manuel Villar announced he had filed 35 bills so far under his "V-point agenda," an apparent play on his last name.

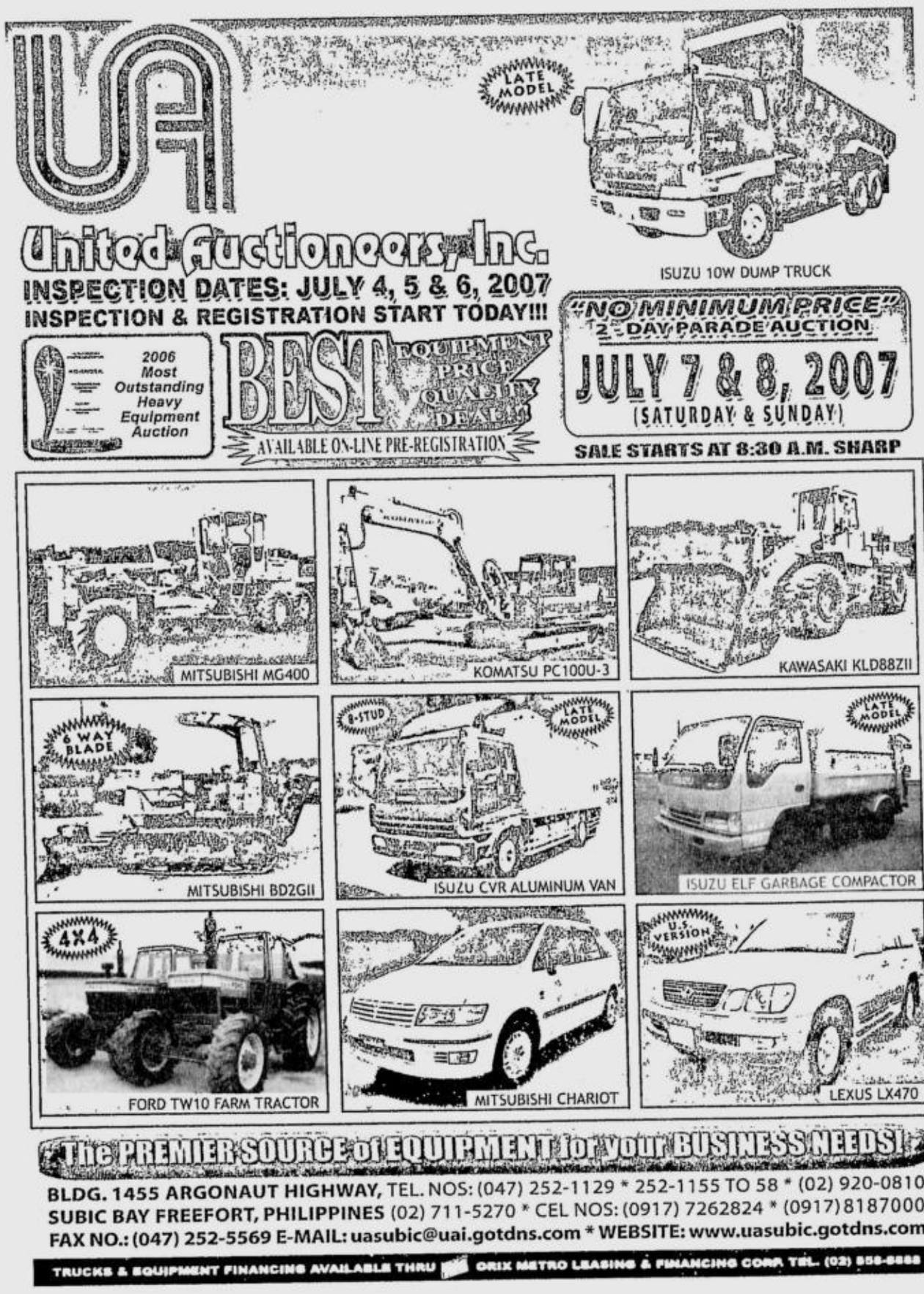
The housing magnate-turned-politician said his legislative agenda focused on five items: Education, health, entrepreneurship, environment and agriculture.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, meanwhile, said he had filed several bills promoting the seven-point "Putting People First" legislative agenda of his party, the Liberal Party.

Villar, newly reelected under the Genuine Opposition ticket that was backed by ousted President Joseph Estrada, is seeking to retain the leadership of the chamber with the support mainly of administration senators.

On the other hand, Roxas—who was elected to the Senate in 2004 under the administration ticket—has aligned himself with opposition senators who want to wrest control of the chamber by electing a Senate president from their ranks.

Both were among the early birds to file measures in the Senate Bills and Index Office as soon as the 14th Congress opened on July 1.



Agusan solon pulls out of House race for JDV

By Norman Bordadora

AS THE FIGHT FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP continues to gather steam, Rep. Edelmiro Amante of Agusan del Norte (Kampi) announced yesterday he was withdrawing his bid for the speakership but was not supporting his partymate, Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, who is after the coveted post.

Instead, the Mindanao leader issued a press statement yesterday saying he was throwing his support behind Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia of the Lakas-CMD party, who is seeking a fifth term as speaker of the House.

"The House and the country need his (De Venecia's) leadership at this time, when further economic reforms are vital to consolidate our economic gains," said Amante, who also praised the Lakas leader's efforts to build Christian-Muslim solidarity.

Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino), the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is split over who to support for speaker. Kampi's chair, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, is supporting De Venecia while its president, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, is backing Garcia.

But like the national poll, the "Mindanao vote" in the party is proving to be controversial.

Another Mindanao leader, Surigao del Norte Representative-elect Guillermo Romarate, came out in favor of Garcia.

The first-term congressman yesterday said a growing number of neophyte lawmakers like himself "want a clean slate" for the House of Representatives in the eyes of the public.

Neophyte congressmen want a House that is respected and trusted by the Filipino people, said Romarate, who cited public opinion surveys that said most Filipinos were distrustful of the De Venecia-led House.

"It's a condemnation of the House as a corrupt institution. This has to change starting with a change in the House leadership," Romarate said of the SWS survey.

Romarate said the "common sentiment among neophyte lawmakers" is that the House of Representatives can improve its battered image through the reforms being initiated by Garcia. He said they did not want to be "tainted by association" to the old leadership.

Fr. Ed cheated—Pineda

By Nikko Dizon

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO A NICKNAME THAT was not recognized on the ballots that ultimately led to the defeat of Lilia Pineda to Fr. Ed Panlilio in the Pampanga gubernatorial race.

This was one of the contentions of Pineda in her electoral protest against Panlilio, the first Catholic priest to be elected governor in the country.

Pineda also accused Panlilio "and his cohorts" of vote-buying, vote-padding and -shaving, and having fake ballots with the priest's name on them counted by the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI).

Yesterday, the Commission on Elections second division opened a hearing on Pineda's protest.

The hearing was attended by Pineda's lawyer, George Garcia, and Panlilio's lawyers, Romulo Macalintal and Sixto Brillantes.

Macalintal and Brillantes, together with election lawyers Leila de Lima and Pete Quadra, are representing Panlilio for free.

"Thousands of votes with Nanay Baby, her registered nickname, were intentionally or erroneously not counted or tallied (by the BEIs)," said the petition filed by Pineda's lawyer on May 25.

The petition was nearly three inches thick because of the annexes and 24 sworn affidavits from individuals who claimed that Panlilio's supporters had engaged in electoral fraud.

Pineda, the candidate of President Arroyo's Kampi party, questioned the results in all of Pampanga's precincts, except Angeles City.

Garcia told the INQUIRER the election offenses may not have been committed by Panlilio himself but by his supporters.

He said there were some 7,000 to 8,000 "Nanay Baby" votes that should have been counted in Pineda's favor that would have made her governor.

Panlilio received 219,706 votes while Pineda got 218,559, for a difference of only 1,147 votes.

Pimentel seeks scrapping of broadband contract

By Gil C. Cabacungan

SENATOR AQUILINO "NENE" Pimentel wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to scrap the $330-million broadband contract it signed with a Chinese company and bid out the project to get a better deal.

Pimentel has questioned why the government settled for negotiating with a chosen company, ZTE Corp., rather than auctioning off the project as mandated by law.

Pimentel shot down Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza's explanation that the project did not require a public bidding because it was a government-to-government deal just like the controversial North Rail project which was also bagged by a favored Chinese firm.

Without a bidding, Pimentel said the government did not have the chance to assess ZTE's capacity to undertake a massive project and to consider the offers of other telecommuication firms amid reports that two other firms have offered to undertake the project at significantly lower costs—Amsterdam Holdings with $242 million and Arescom USA with $135 million.

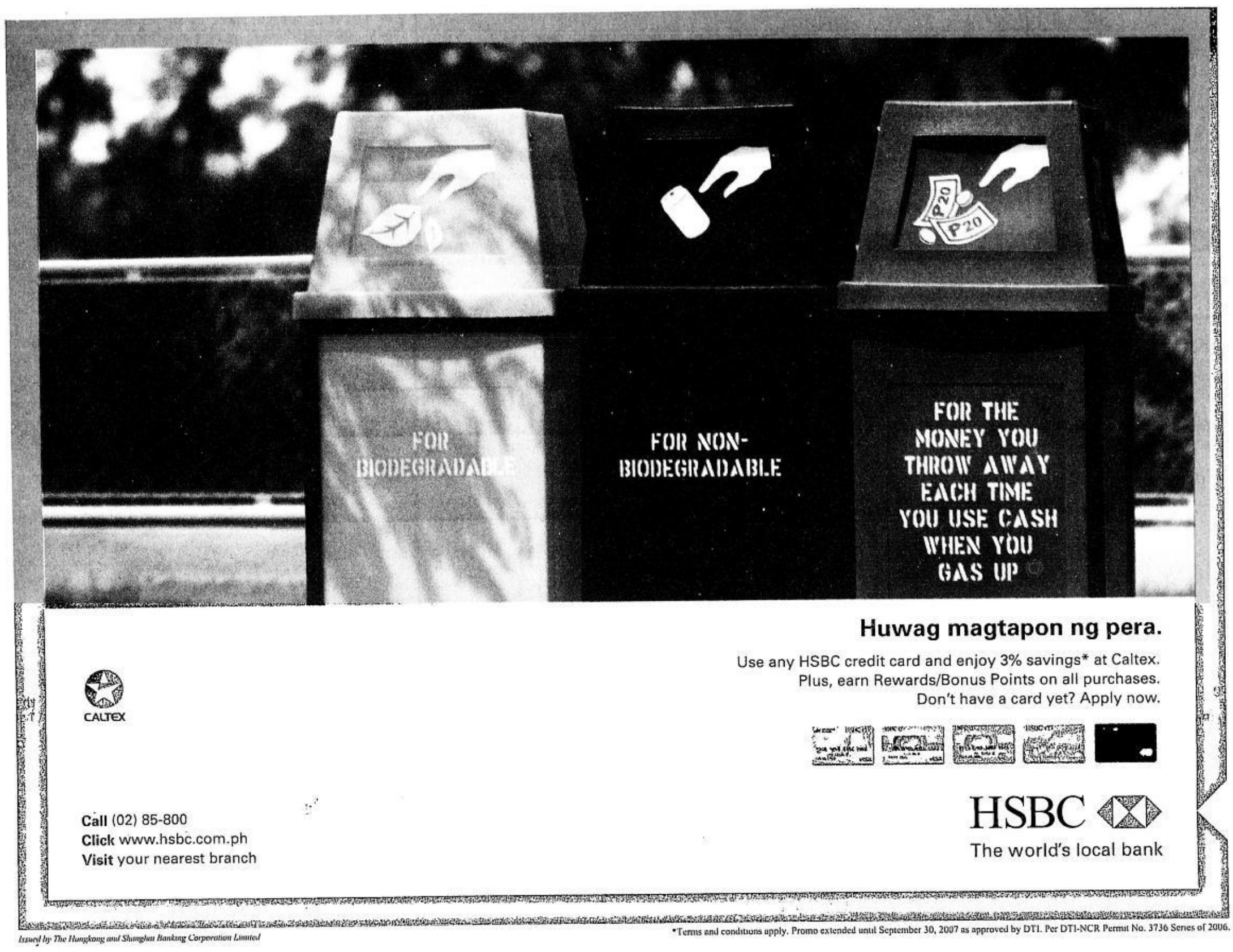
"The government should withdraw this contract so that there will be a public bidding of the telecommunications project—one that is open and transparent that will not leave any doubt in the public mind," said Pimentel who had earlier cited the trail of one-sided deals entered into by ZTE in other countries.

The doubts on the ZTE deal had been heightened further by the loss of the official document under suspicious circumstance by government officials just hours after the contract was signed in China last April.

Aside from the lack of transparency, Pimentel said the government veered away from its original plan to undertake the project under the build-operate-and-transfer scheme where the private sector would shoulder all the costs in exchange for operating the project for 25 years.

Pimentel said that broadband deal would be bankrolled by a loan extended by the Chinese government similar to the loan agreement entered into by the government in the North Rail project.

PIMENTEL



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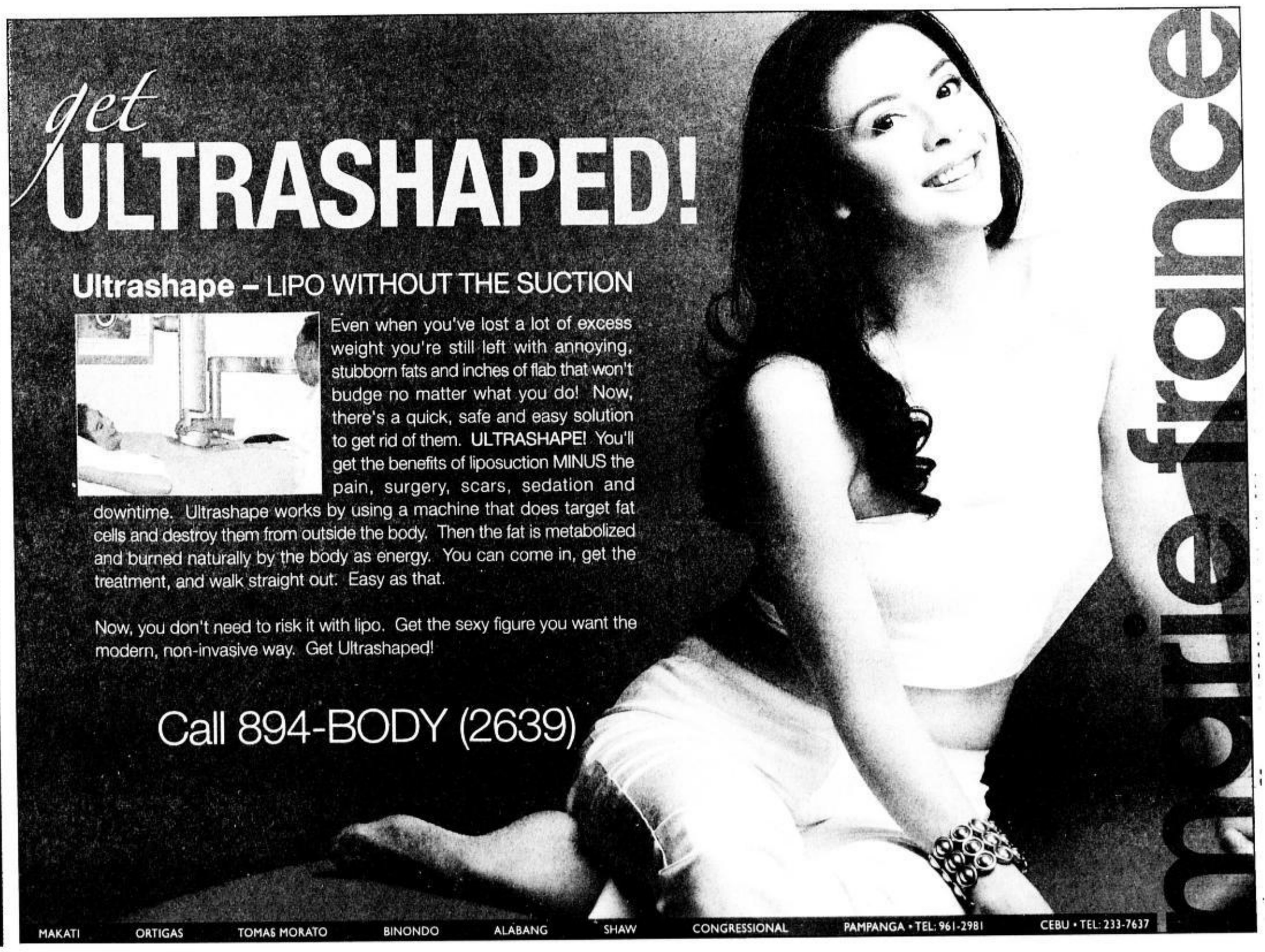

Fed up with Paris Hilton, newscaster rips script

From page A1

en to the controversial Hollywood socialite.

Mika Brzezinski tore her script to pieces on the air and then put another one through a shredder on Friday morning when she was asked by her editors on MSNBC cable channel to lead the newscast with an item about Hilton.

"Listen, I just don't believe in covering that story, especially not as the lead story in a newscast when you have a day like today," Brzezinski said on the air.

Footage documenting Brzezinski's revolt is now making the rounds on the Internet. The footage has since been viewed on the video exchange website YouTube more than 870,000 times.

Hilton, a 26-year-old starlet and hotel chain heiress, was released from a Los Angeles jail on Tuesday last week after serving 23 days for driving with a suspended license. It was the latest twist to a celebrity saga that had made worldwide headlines since she was first slapped with a jail sentence last month.

No disciplinary action has been taken by MSNBC against Brzezinski.

The media frenzy over Hilton has sparked fierce debates in newsrooms over how much journalistic talent and scarce resources should be devoted to the coverage of the celebrity.

Best ratings

Even so, the media as well as the public can't seem to have enough of Hilton.

Hilton's post-jail appearance on CNN's "Larry King Live," for instance, drew about 3.2 million viewers, nearly triple the show's average audience.

Hilton's first TV chat since her release from jail aired on Wednesday last week and gave King's show its best ratings of the year to date for a regularly scheduled telecast, according to CNN. The program has been drawing about 1.1 million daily viewers.

During the hourlong interview, Hilton told King that her jail experience prompted her to reevaluate the role of partying in her life and that she intended to continue her "journey" of self-discovery. She also said she planned to raise money for worthy causes, including "for kids and for breast cancer and multiple sclerosis."

Hilton also told King that the media had exaggerated her party-girl image. She said she had never taken drugs and did not have a drinking problem.

To give way to Hilton, CNN decided to postpone a King interview with filmmaker Michael Moore and reset it to a later date.

Hilton's trash

The madness over Hilton has spilled over to the eBay website: An empty gourmet dog food can taken from her trash fetched $305 in an eBay auction.

The bidding that ended on Sunday had reached $1.5 million, but some of the bids were retracted or canceled because the wrong amount was entered or they were not legitimate, according to the eBay website.

The sellers were from the website HollywoodStarTrash.com, which also listed several other Hilton items for sale on eBay, including a used toothbrush that also sold for $305; two envelopes sent to her while she was in jail that sold for $510; and a Coke can for $51.

The organic gourmet dog food produced by Party Animal Inc. is available in about 150 stores in Southern California and about 40 stores in New York. The dog food can also be bought through the company's website. *Reports from AFP and AP*

MSNBC's NEWSCASTER Mika Brzezinski tears up her script that leads the newscast with yet another item on Paris Hilton. Footage documenting Brzezinski's revolt is now making the rounds on the Internet.

FIRST INTERVIEW: The woman of the moment is photographed during a taping of "Larry King Live," where she gave her first interview on June 27 after serving jail time. PDI PHOTO

Corrections

IN THE JULY 2 ISSUE, the banner story—"Appellate court junks case against Palparan"—misstated the first name of a National Democratic Front member who has been missing since June 2006. The missing NDF member is Leopoldo—not Leonardo—Ancheta.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Sports story on Page A29—"San Miguel-RP opens vs tough US selection"—misstated the year the Philippines last won the gold in the William Jones Cup basketball tournament. The Philippines last won the Jones Cup in 1998—not 1988.

* * *

IN THE JUNE 30 ISSUE, a Sports story on Page A30—"Sardenas duo makes winning a family thing"—misspelled the surname of a dragon boat team member. The member is Ricky Sardenas—not Sardena.

* * *

IN THE JULY 1 ISSUE, the headline and story on Page B1 of the Sunday Biz section—"Leading 50 to run 42 on 7-22"—miscalculated the approximate distance from Makati City to Batangas. The distance between the two points is roughly 108 km—not 42 km.

* * *

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Finance intel officer suspended for unexplained wealth

WHILE WORKING UNDER THE SAME roof with the so-called "lifestyle" checkers, this government employee's alleged ill-gotten wealth almost went unchecked.

The Office of the Ombudsman yesterday ordered the six-month preventive suspension of an intelligence officer in the Department of Finance, based on the findings of his own coworkers in the DOF who are tasked to investigate unexplained riches.

Ruben Anthony Frogoso was cited for declaring personal properties and a net worth "manifestly out of proportion from his salary," upon scrutiny by the DOF's Revenue Integrity and Protection Service office (RIPS).

Frogoso was only on his 15th month working in the DOF when he declared his net worth at around P6 million as of 1999. By 2000, he got richer by almost P2 million, pegging his net worth at P7.8 million that year, the Ombudsman said.

And yet his only known source of income was his government job, which paid him a year-round salary of only P109,452 in 1999 and P120,396 the next year.

Transfer

In those first 15 months, Frogoso reported under the now defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) of the DOF. Frogoso was later transferred to the department's Central Management Information Office after the EIIB's abolition.

He was also able to buy a Toyota Altis sedan worth P842,000 in 2002, a Mitsubishi Pajero worth P1.7 million in 2003, and Suzuki Vitara worth P1.1 million in 2005, the antigraft agency noted.

Strong evidence

This, despite having a current salary of less than P180,000 a year.

"All the foregoing are strong evidence of guilt in violation of RA 6713 or Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, (for) dishonesty and misconduct," Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said in the suspension order. *Volt Contreras*

Stiff jail terms for cell phone snatchers

THE SENATE IS CRACKING down on snatchers of cellular phones and other gadgets like iPods with its plan to punish them with longer jail time regardless of the amount of their loot.

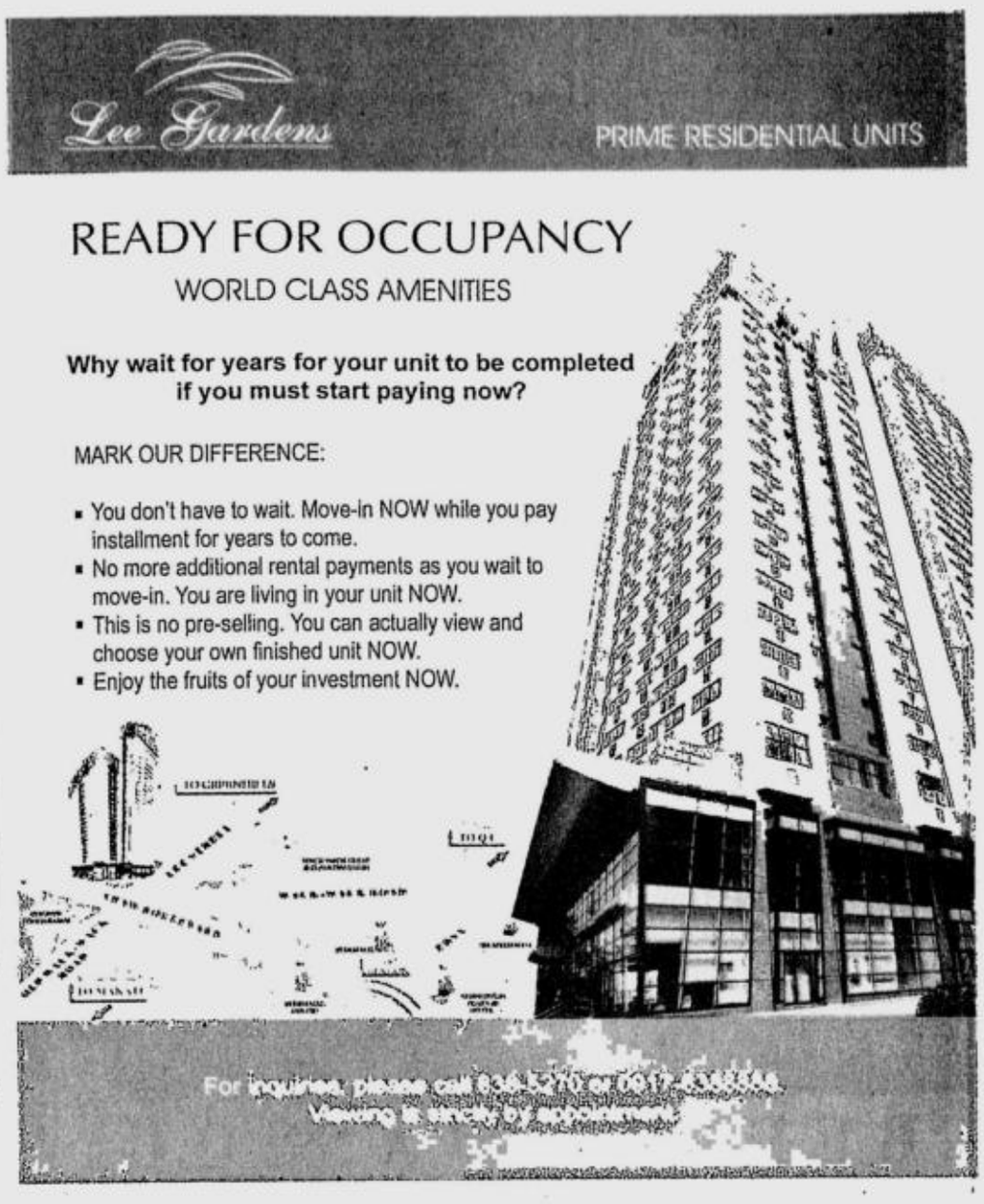
In a bill filed by Sen. Richard Gordon, persons caught stealing mobile phones or other electronic gadgets irrespective of the value would face jail time of between 6 years and 18 years.

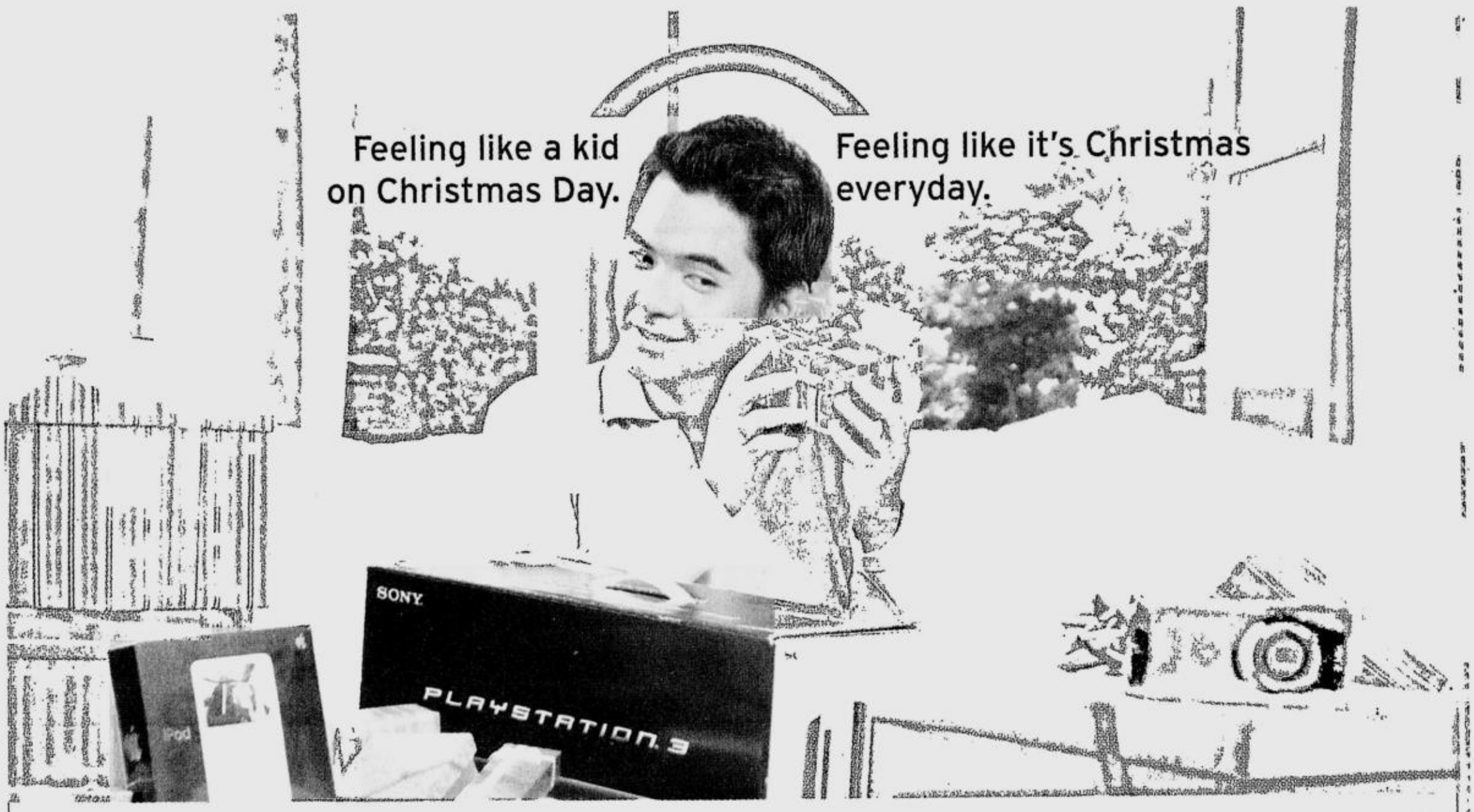
If the crime is committed with violence or intimidation, the culprit will get a maximum of 20 years in jail. Any cell phone theft resulting in death shall be punishable by life imprisonment.

Previously, arrested snatchers face only moderate jail time depending on the value of their stolen good.

With this bill, Gordon is optimistic that snatchers would be deterred from preying on owners of cellular phones and electronic gadgets with the harsh penalties normally imposed on major crimes.

Cellular phones have become the hottest theft item in the country over the past years with a significant number of Filipinos carrying expensive, modern communication gadgets that sell very easily in the gray market. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*





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WELL-CONNECTED: The convicted former White House aide has longstanding ties to the highest US officials, President Bush and Vice President Cheney. At one point, Libby was the latter's chief of staff. PDI PHOTO

Bush spares Cheney aide from prison term

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From page A1

the White House for years.

After the name of CIA operative Valerie Plame appeared in a 2003 syndicated newspaper column, Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald questioned top administration officials, including Bush and Cheney, about their possible roles.

It's a federal crime to deliberately disclose the name of a CIA agent.

Nobody was ever charged with the leak, including White House political adviser Karl Rove, who provided the information for the original article. Prosecutors said Libby obstructed the investigation by lying about how he learned about Plame and whom he told.

Plame believes Libby and other White House officials conspired to leak her identity to reporters in 2003 as retribution against her husband, retired diplomat Joseph Wilson, who criticized what he said was the administration's misleading use of prewar intelligence on Iraq.

LEWIS "SCOOTER" LIBBY was found guilty of lying to federal investigators in a case which probed whether White House officials had leaked the name of a CIA officer to avenge criticism of her husband who had argued against the war in Iraq. PDI PHOTO

Political cronyism

The commutation of Libby's sentence comes at a time when the administration is embroiled in accusations of political cronyism.

Fitzgerald disputed Bush's assertion that the prison term was excessive, saying Libby was sentenced under the same laws as other criminals.

"It is fundamental to the rule of law that all citizens stand before the bar of justice as equals," he said.

Bush's decision enraged Democrats but elated conservatives—though some of the latter wished Bush had granted a full pardon.

"Libby's conviction was the one faint glimmer of accountability for White House efforts to manipulate intelligence and silence critics of the Iraq war," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat. "Now, even that small bit of justice has been undone."

$250,000 fine intact

Unlike a pardon, which would have wiped away Libby's criminal record, Bush's commutation voided only the prison term.

Bush left intact a $250,000 fine and two years' probation for Libby's conviction of lying and obstructing justice.

Bush said his action still "leaves in place a harsh punishment for Mr. Libby."

Libby was convicted in March, becoming the highest-ranking White House official ordered to prison since the Iran-Contra affair roiled the Reagan administration in the 1980s.

In the Iran-Contra scandal, arms were secretly sold to Iran to gain freedom for American hostages, with the money funneled to anticommunist guerrillas in Nicaragua in spite of a congressional ban.

Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush, issued pardons for six former officials shortly before leaving office in 1992.

Political backlash

Testimony in the Libby case revealed the extraordinary steps that Bush and Cheney were willing to take to discredit a critic of the Iraq war.

Libby's supporters celebrated Bush's decision.

"President Bush did the right thing today in commuting the prison term for Scooter Libby," said House Republican Whip Roy Blunt of Missouri.

"That's fantastic," said former Ambassador Richard Carlson, who helped raise millions for Libby's defense fund. "Scooter Libby did not deserve to go to prison and I'm glad the President had the courage to do this."

Already at record lows in the polls, Bush risked a political backlash with his decision. Then President Gerald Ford tumbled in the polls after his 1974 pardon of Richard M. Nixon, and the decision was a factor in Ford's loss in the 1976 election.

Taking the heat

White House officials said Bush knew he could take political heat and simply did what he thought was right.

On the other hand, Bush's action could help Republican presidential candidates by letting them off the hook on the question of whether they would pardon Libby.

Bush said Cheney's former aide was not getting off free.

THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD: Ex-CIA officer Valerie Plame and her husband, ex-diplomat Joseph Wilson.

"The reputation he gained through his years of public service and professional work in the legal community is forever damaged," Bush said.

"His wife and young children have also suffered immensely. He will remain on probation. The significant fines imposed by the judge will remain in effect. The consequences of his felony conviction on his former life as a lawyer, public servant and private citizen will be long-lasting."

No pardon

Bush's statement made no mention of the term "pardon."

He noted Libby supporters' argument that the punishment did not fit the crime for a "first-time offender with years of exceptional public service."

Yet, Bush added: "Others point out that a jury of citizens weighed all the evidence and listened to all the testimony and found Mr. Libby guilty of perjury and obstructing justice. They argue, correctly, that our entire system of justice relies on people telling the truth. And if a person does not tell the truth, particularly if he serves in government and holds the public trust, he must be held accountable."

Bush then stripped away the prison time.

Precedents

In his first 6 1/2 years in office, Bush was very circumspect in issuing pardons and commuting sentences. He has pardoned more than 100 people, but none of them were prominent.

Other presidents have issued pardons for which they were heavily criticized.

President Bill Clinton pardoned 140 people on his last day in office, including fugitive financier Marc Rich.

On Christmas Eve in 1992, just before he left office, then President George H.W. Bush pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and a CIA official as they awaited trial on Iran-Contra charges, as well as four other administration officials who had pleaded or been found guilty in the scandal. *AP*

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Army eyes leftists in Jonas abduction

Unbelievable, says missing victim's ma

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE ARMY WAS NOW LOOKING INTO THE possibility that elements from the Left, including the head of a communist hit squad who was shot dead in 2004, could be behind the abduction of peasant activist Jonas Joseph Burgos.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said yesterday his command which was conducting a background check on Jonas in the hope of trying to find who abducted him was following a certain "lead."

"There (are names) cropping up–Mon, Ramon, Mina, Front committee 2 and Tabara," Tolentino told reporters.

Burgos' mother Edita Burgos was shocked by Tolentino's disclosures that the Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) was responsible for the abduction.

"It was completely unbelievable since all indications point to the involvement of the military," she said.

She added that she received a text message yesterday afternoon from "a friend" who had contact with Nilo dela Cruz, the suspected leader of the ABB, that read in part: "*Masyadong* absurd *yan. Garapal na palusot* (That's too absurd, a shameless excuse).

Asked whether the Left had something to do with Jonas' disappearance since he mentioned "Tabara and Front committee 2" which are associated with the communist movement, Tolentino said he couldn't say for now.

"We will try to make sure. It's hard to say so for now," he said.

Front committee is a term used by the communist movement for its guerilla unit. On the other hand, Arturo Tabara was head of the RPA-ABB, a breakaway group of the Communist Party of the Philippines, when he was gunned down in SM Fairview in 2004.

Asked how these names cropped up, Tolentino said his command has been operating in Bulacan. "And those are the things that have been told to us by our assets," he said.

Told that Jonas' mother Edita was convinced the Army was behind her son's disappearance on April 28, Tolentino said if she was convinced of this, then she should file a case against them.

Tolentino said the Army was conducting its own investigation because it was following what human rights officials had earlier said that Jonas' background could be a key in finding his abductors.

Jonas, 36, was forcibly taken while eating in a Quezon City mall on April 28 by three men and a woman. The license plate of the getaway vehicle they used was later traced to another vehicle parked inside the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The military later claimed that the plate was stolen from the camp.

Ex-president cites Poland's experience

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FORMER POLISH PRESIDENT ALEKSANDER Kwasniewski believes that changes in the political system and the democratic state, as well as national unity are possible through the use of opportunities for the global integration of regions.

Addressing the 2nd Ateneo MVP Leadership Forum held at the Ateneo de Manila University, Kwasniewski, who was Poland's president from 1995 to 2005, said that the Polish experience would show that instilling societal changes may be a long-term process but it is possible by understanding the current international situation.

He stressed that Poland's integration in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and the European Union on May 1, 2004, proved vital to the survival of the country, guaranteeing its development and access to large markets. "Poland is a part of Europe and her fate depends on the fate of the continent," Kwasniewski pointed out.

"The world today is developing very quickly, the changes in the international arena and on the domestic fronts are often too difficult to comprehend and follow. It is thus the duty of politicians and scientists to inform the people and to give them direction," he said.

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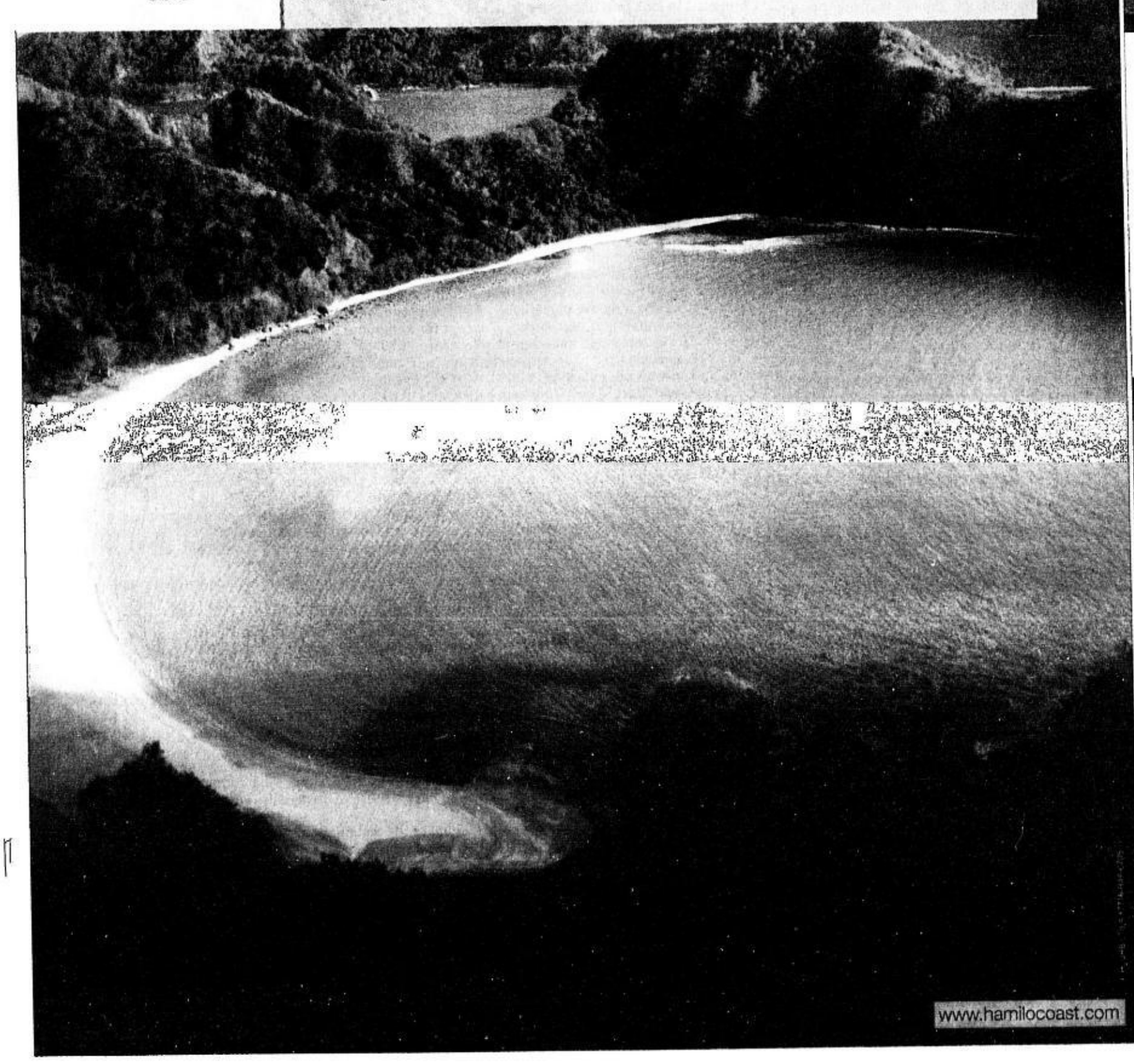

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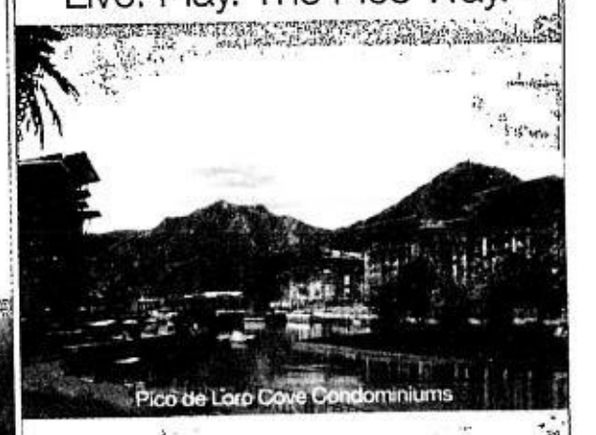

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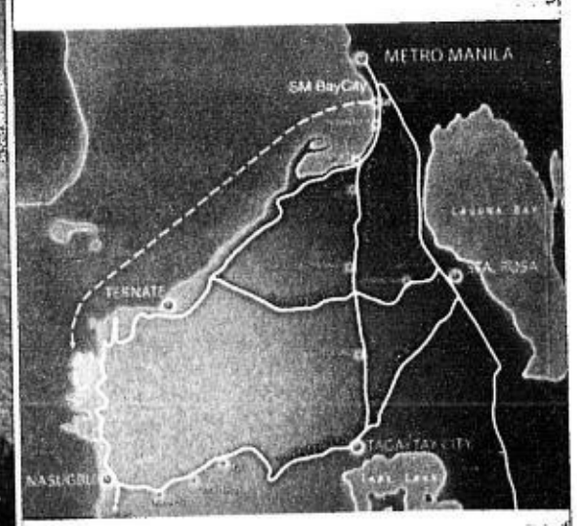

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THE REAL SCORE IN THE DISPUTE OVER THE BIR's COLLECTION TARGETS

By **Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio G. Teves**, *Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means*

The national government has been in a tight fiscal bind, with revenue targets not being met over the years. The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), which collects almost 70% of revenues, has clearly demonstrated lackluster performance. The BIR's erstwhile Commissioner, Jose Mario Buñag, has been harping that the bureau's targets are unrealistic to begin with. This, despite his endorsement of the targets, as set by the Development Budget Coordinating Council (DBCC).

Government last achieved its highest revenue effort in 1997, at 17.02% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That year, the BIR also posted its highest revenue effort, at 12.97% of GDP. The revenue effort has since deteriorated, with the lowest recorded at 9.64% of GDP in 2004.

BIR COLLECTION AS PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

1997	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
12.97%	9.96%	9.65%	9.64%	10.01%	11.20%	1.68%

The revenue effort improved in 2005 and 2006, at 10.01% and 11.2%, respectively, of GDP. However, the meager increases still pale in comparison to the revenue efforts of our Southeast Asian neighbors.

COMPARATIVE REVENUE EFFORTS AS PERCENTAGE OF GDP (SELECTED SOUTHEAST COUNTRIES)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Philippines	14.6	14.8	14.5	15.1	16.3
Indonesia	16.4	17	17.6	17.8	19.1
Malaysia	23.1	23.4	22.1	21.5	21.7
Thailand	15.5	16.2	17.3	20.8	20.2
Vietnam	22.7	25	26.7	25.9	26.9

Given the high effort ratio of the Southeast Asian countries, it can be surmised that their tax agencies are far more efficient administrators than our BIR.

THE BIR's SUPPOSEDLY "UNREALISTIC" TARGETS

In 1997, government realized a fiscal surplus, with P471.84 billion in total revenues. Revenue effort was then at an all-time high of 17.02% of GDP, with the BIR's revenue effort also highest at 12.97% of GDP. If the BIR was then able to achieve a 12.97% revenue effort, there's no acceptable excuse for the bureau's dismal performance in the succeeding years.

The revenue goals are set by the DBCC, composed of the Budget Secretary (chairman), Finance Secretary (vice-chairman), the chief of the National Economic Development Authority, and one representative each from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Office of the President.

For CY 2006, the BIR's revenue collection at 12.97% of GDP should have been pegged at P781.8 billion, based on the adjusted GDP of P6.028 trillion that year.

However, the DBCC conservatively set the BIR's target at only P675.353 billion, or just 11.2% of GDP. Yet, the BIR was able to collect only P652.4 billion, which was still P22.95-billion short of the reduced goal. This clearly proves the BIR's inadequate performance.

The BIR's 2007 target of P730 billion is absolutely achievable. This target was already twice revised downward to factor in the impact of lower-than-expected interest rates on tax collections from investments in Treasury bills and Treasury bonds.

The BIR's original target was P784.09 billion, as contained in the 2007 Budget of Expenditure and Sources of Financing. This was lowered to P765 billion, and then to P730 billion. At 12.97% revenue effort, the BIR's full potential revenue collection should be higher. The bureau should be able to collect P870.6 billion, given the 2007 projected GDP of P6.712 trillion.

Mr. Buñag's lament concerning the BIR's supposedly unrealistic targets is, at best, ridiculous. Did he simply forget that he agreed to the targets, and that he even affixed his signature to the documents setting the targets? If he was absolutely convinced that the bureau's targets were impossible to achieve, then Mr. Buñag should have resigned right then and there, not after he was given the chance to perform his job.

SECRECY BREEDS CONNIVANCE AND CORRUPTION

At the core of the revenue collection problem is the utter lack of transparency in tax payments. The Tax Code's secrecy and confidentiality provisions breed corruption in compliance and enforcement. Efforts to check revenue shortfalls will be futile, considering there is no other entity mandated to properly audit collections. Even the Finance Secretary, who is supposed to oversee the BIR, is not allowed to look into tax payment records.

This, despite Section 71 of the same Tax Code, which clearly stipulates that returns, together with any corrections thereof made by the Commissioner, shall be filed in the Office of the Commissioner, and shall constitute public records, and be open to inspection upon the order of the President of the Philippines, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Finance Secretary, upon the Commissioner's recommendation.

Sadly, Sections 270 and 278 of the Tax Code reinforce secrecy. Under the cloak of confidentiality, the income tax and value added tax (VAT) payments and deficiencies of firms cannot be checked. There is no way for anyone outside the BIR to verify whether corporations are in fact declaring the exact amount of taxable income and the VAT due.

Worse, the secrecy provisions actually serve only to foster connivance between unscrupulous taxpayers and rotten examiners. Thus, the need to revisit the Tax Code, remove the confidentiality provisions, and institute spotless transparency in collections.

Even if BIR officials are constantly changed, as long as the system in which they operate is characterized by strict secrecy, government will find it difficult to achieve revenue targets. Absolute transparency and thorough auditing must be instituted in order to achieve maximum collections. It has been suggested that the authority to cause the inspection of income tax and VAT returns should be relegated to the Finance Secretary, to allow the Department of Finance (DOF) to determine if the BIR has, in fact, been collecting the right amount of taxes.

Since the 11th Congress, I have been strenuously pushing total transparency in tax collections. I introduced a bill seeking to repeal the Tax Code's secrecy provisions. The House of Representatives approved the bill, but the Senate did not.

I wrote the President a memorandum, way back in March 2003, proposing the creation of an audit team. Then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who was furnished a copy, replied that there was no need for the team, since its proposed functions were supposedly already being performed by the DOF.

Secretary Boncodin may have overlooked the fact that there is no specific Tax Code provision mandating the Finance Secretary to perform an audit. And that this omission has precisely emboldened the BIR to refuse the rigorous examination of tax records by the Finance Secretary.

Then President Joseph Estrada issued Executive Order (EO) 38, directing the Commission on Audit (COA) to examine the assessments, revenues and receipts of the BIR. To enforce the presidential directive, the COA issued Resolution 95-208, for state auditors to be able to scrutinize the BIR's tax records.

Regrettably, to circumvent the EO and the COA resolution, the BIR petitioned the Supreme Court for a restraining order. Clearly, the BIR does not want its records examined and audited, fearing it will open a pandora's box of widespread corruption and connivance in the underpayment if not outright evasion of taxes.

CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY

Despite the mandate for the Finance Secretary to supervise revenue-generating agencies, he has been unable to exercise authority because, in the BIR's case, the bureau has been conveniently invoking the secrecy provisions. The BIR has chosen to disregard its duty to provide the Finance Secretary all information with respect to assessments, collections and compromises in tax payments.

Mr. Buñag claimed he never had any leeway to perform his job. Yet, under the Tax Code, the Commissioner enjoys vast powers, including the power to compromise and abate tax payments without any directive or confirmation from the Finance Secretary.

The Tax Code does not specifically provide the Finance Secretary's responsibilities with respect to BIR collections. The Finance Secretary merely counts on whatever the Commissioner reports, hook, line and sinker. Thus, it is outrageous and malicious for Mr. Buñag, former Congressman Prospero Pichay and newspaper columnist Federico Pascual to cry for Finance Secretary Gary Teves' resignation as well.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT, NOT MEDDLING IN BIR OPERATIONS

Mr. Buñag has been vocal about his supposed frustration over my constant presence at the Bureau. He claimed that my mere presence demoralized BIR staff.

The former Commissioner has chosen to disregard Section 230 of the Tax Code, which provides for the creation of a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee of the BIR. The committee, which I chair, is mandated to: 1) monitor the proper implementation of Republic Act 8240; 2) ensure that the Commissioner's power to compromise and abate is judiciously exercised; 3) review the BIR's collection performance; and 4) evaluate the implementation of the bureau's programs.

I vigorously performed the oversight function of Congress, having been the Senior Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means for two Congresses, and later Chairman of said committee in the second half of the 13th Congress.

Since the 11th Congress, I have been consulting with the BIR and various agencies. In fact, I worked closely with the late Commissioner Beethoven Rualo, then with Commissioners Dakila Fonacier, Rene Bañez, Guillermo Parayno Jr. and of course, Mr. Buñag.

Except for Mr. Buñag, all Commissioners then welcomed my efforts to help the BIR look into its problems, and come up with viable solutions with the end view of building up revenue collection.

During Commissioner Bañez's tenure, the Teves Task Force was created. This evolved into the Inter-Agency Taskforce on the Improvement of the BIR Database, and later led to the establishment of the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

The accusation that I meddled in BIR operations is totally ridiculous. Having a father-son tandem in the Legislative and Executive branches, both with impeccable public service records, overseeing the BIR, was apparently not welcomed by Mr. Buñag, for his own reasons.

I must stress that even before my son took on the job of Finance Secretary, I have been consulting and conducting hearings with the BIR and other agencies. Mr. Buñag is well aware of this. He participated in these consultations, as early as when he was still Deputy Commissioner for Legal. These consultations were regarded as positive venues to thresh out and address collection issues.

PROPOSALS TO BUILD UP TAX ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

In numerous communications sent to the DOF and the BIR, I have been outlining practical measures to meaningfully improve tax enforcement and compliance.

For instance, I turned over to the BIR and the DOF, statistics on the total number of registered cars (from the Land Transportation Office or LTO); the potential number of taxable families nationwide (from the National Statistics Office); land valuations (from the Assessors Office); the real estate tax of affluent families (from the Bureau of Local Government Finance); the Top 5000 Corporations and the names and addresses of active corporations (from the Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC); and even production figures from sugar mills nationwide.

These were all meant to help establish benchmarks that may then be used to forecast potential revenues that may be collected from each type of tax. The data that I submitted were intended to help the BIR increase collections of (a) corporate income taxes; (b) individual income taxes; and (c) percentage taxes on land, sea and air transport, and on utilities, among others.

In the course of my consultations with the BIR in a span of three Congresses, I was able to look into the potential revenues per type of tax.

On individual income tax, BIR data indicate that in CY 2004, a total of 655,258 individuals filed income tax returns (ITRs), while a total of 2,855,500 taxpayers filed via substituted filing mechanism.

Consequently, the tax paid by pure compensation income earners or salaried employees amounted to P84.289 billion. This accounted for 83.52% of the BIR's total individual income tax collection.

The self-employed paid a total of only P4.8 billion, or a measly 5% of total individual income tax collections the same year.

It would appear that middle and lower-middle income families carry the heaviest burden of taxation, more than affluent households. It is unfortunate that a large portion of the potential income taxes of the wealthy are not captured.

A World Bank report previously showed that 52% of the value of all Philippine Stock Exchange-listed corporations is owned by only 10 families! This corroborates former Prime Minister Cesar Virata's assertion that 90% of the wealth of our country is controlled by just 10% of the population.

Social Security System (SSS) statistics indicate that the pension fund has 5,370,181 members whose salaries are above P5,000 per month. Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) figures show that the pension fund has a total of 1,424,845 members with an average annual income of P120,000. The Armed Forces and the National Police have a combined uniformed personnel of 275,288.

If we add them all up, there should be more than seven million individual income taxpayers, versus the BIR's list of less than three million. This is a huge gap of 4,216,819 employees.

Given an average annual income of P120,000 at 15 percent tax rate, the taxes withheld from compensation income should at least be about P127.3 billion, not just P84.3 billion as the BIR collected in 2004. The gap between the full tax potential and actual collection amounted to P43 billion, for compensation income alone.

So that the BIR will find out whether it has captured all potential individual income taxpayers, it was recommended that the bureau should use third-party information.

One practical way of doing this is by cross-referencing the individual taxpayers' list with registered motor vehicle owners. The premise is simple: An individual cannot afford to buy even a budget car if he or she has no decent and potentially taxable income, and that one surely cannot buy a very expensive vehicle if he or she does not have a lot of potentially taxable income.

According to the LTO, more than four million privately owned cars are listed. I then proposed that all car registrants should be required to submit copies of their latest ITRs.

The corporate income tax is another large revenue source. There is a need to reconcile SEC and BIR records. For CY 2004, the SEC listed a total of 304,070 active corporations. However, according to BIR records that same year, only 115,582 corporations or 38% filed ITRs. Worse, of the corporations that filed ITRs, only 70,434 or 23% actually paid income taxes, amounting to a total of P131.168 billion.

The BIR's Comparative Report on Registered Corporate Taxpayers per Revenue Region for CY 2005-2006 showed a 10.15% increase in corporate income tax filers that yielded P40.526 billion in additional revenues. This is positive. However, a closer examination will show that the amount still pales when compared to the tens of billions of pesos in uncollected corporate income taxes.

In November 2006, as Co-Chairman of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program, I wrote the Finance Secretary, through the BIR Commissioner, to convey the outcome of several studies conducted.

On corporate income taxes for CY 2004 and 2005, large discrepancies were noted between potential absolute taxes due and actual taxes collected.

The following firms are in the SEC's Top 5000 Corporations. It can be observed that just from these 10 corporations, the total discrepancy between full potential income taxes collectible and actual taxes collected for CY 2004 and CY 2005 amounted to P27.217 and P20.803 billion, respectively.

	2005 Net Income	2005 Potential Income Tax Due	2005 Income Tax Paid	2005 Potential Difference	Percentage Difference
Smart Communications Inc.	P 19.607 B	P 9.226 B	P 5.632 B	P 3.594 B	38%
Nestle Philippines Inc.	P 6.132 B	P 2.885	P 3.009 B	P 123.77 M	
Globe Telecom Inc.	P 11.257 B	P 5.297 B	P 212.05 M	P 5.085 B	95%
PLDT Co.	P 17.714 B	P 8.336 B	P 1.219 B	P 7.116 B	85%
Ayala Land Inc.	P 3.008 B	P 1.415 B	P 577.49 M	P 838.05 M	
San Miguel Foods Inc.	P 88.0 M	P 41.411 M	P 61.30 M	P 19.878 M	
Philip Morris Mfg. Phils. Inc.	P 1.078 B	P 507.294 M	P 99.26 M	P 408.06 M	
Fortune Tobacco Corp.	P 835.0 M	P 392.941 B	P 399.62 M	P 6.674 M	
Bayan Telecommunications Inc	P 14.285 B	P 6.722 B	P 33.735 M	P 6.688 B	99%
Mirant Sual Corp.	P 7.730 B	P 3.637 B	P 80.982 T	P 3.637 B	99%
	2006 Net Income	**2006 Potential Income Tax Due**	**2006 Income Tax Paid**	**2006 Potential Difference**	**Percentage Difference**
Smart Communications Inc.	P 22.917 B	P10.784 B	P 7.919 B	P 2.865 B	26%
Nestle Philippines Inc.	P 5.833 B	P 2.744 B	P 2.721 B	P 23.810 M	
Globe Telecom Inc.	P 8.572 B	P 4.033 B	P 1.082 B	P 2.951 B	73%
PLDT Co.	P 20.229 B	P 9.519 B	P 483.89 M	P 9.035 B	94%
Ayala Land Inc.	P 7.616 B	P 3.584 B	P 393.88 M	P 3 190 B	89%
San Miguel Foods Inc.	P 673.00 M	P 316.71 M	P 337.41 M	P 20.703 M	
Philip Morris Mfg. Phils. Inc.	P 1.044 B	P 491.29 M	P 302.01 M	P 189.28 M	
Fortune Tobacco Corp.	P 349.00 M	P 164.24 M	P 139.03 M	P 25.202 M	
Bayan Telecommunications Inc	P 690.00 M	P 324.71 M	P 26.35 M	P 298.36 M	
Mirant Sual Corp.	P 4.783 B	P 2.250 B	P 5.790 M	P 2.245 B	99%

In a letter addressed to the Finance Secretary, coursed through then Commissioner Buñag, I requested information as to the cause of the discrepancies -- whether these may be attributed to lawfully enjoyed income tax holidays, tax credit claims, or huge claims for input VAT, or similar factors. The BIR never bothered to look into the matter.

Using information from third parties such as the SEC can definitely help the Bureau expand its tax base and augment collections.

The VAT is another type of tax where extensive leaks have been found. These problems have been observed: excessive claims of input tax credits, unlawful claims of the presumptive input VAT, under-declaration or non-declaration of 'VATable' sales by companies as well as discrepancies in the implementation of rules on zero-rated sales and other revenue regulations.

Under Section 4 of Revenue Regulation 2-88, zero-rated entities are allowed a refund on VAT paid on their purchases, upon presentation of documents proving actual utilization of the raw materials in goods as provided.

RR 2-88 further provides that refunds of input taxes for zero-rated sale of goods of export-oriented Board of Investments-registered enterprises that export at least 70% of their total annual production, shall be allowed only upon presentation of documents of liquidation evidencing actual utilization of the raw materials in the manufacture of goods, at least 70% of which have been actually exported.

The existing practice of totally deducting input tax from output tax on exempt and zero-rated sales on VAT return is definitely wrong. This is being abused in a big way at the expense of much-needed government revenue.

A case in point is the telecommunications industry. I questioned the fact that zero-rated and exempt sales declared by industry players have been increasing exponentially. From 2000-2001 there were no declared zero-rated and exempt sales, except for Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which has been declaring zero-rated and exempt sales since 1999.

In 2002, Smart started to declare exempt and zero-rated sales. Globe also increased its declared zero-rated and exempt sales starting in 2004. After the telecommunications firms exhausted their input VAT on capital, they started declaring zero-rated sales in order to reduce their actual VAT payments.

A study conducted by the National Tax Research Center on the VAT using tax gap approach revealed an average annual tax leakage of 35.62% from 2001-2004. This translated to an annual tax revenue loss of about P65.6 billion.

The BIR has also been unable to collect the VAT due from toll companies. Tollways earn at least P30 million a day or some P900 million a month. At 12% VAT, government should be netting P108 million in extra monthly revenues -- from every toll company.

The discrepancies in potential taxes and actual collections just from the three major tax types are enough to prove the BIR's gross inefficiency as lead revenue-generating agency.

Mr. Buñag mistakenly regarded my well-meaning proposals as meddlesome. Yet, my only desire really has been to help build up government's revenue collection.

I am a public servant in the twilight of my years. I have no hidden agenda in broadcasting my observations with respect to public policies.

My advocacies are simply consistent with the ideals that I have pursued for the public good.

Building up government's revenue collections has been my chief advocacy. This is to ensure that all social programs and poverty alleviation projects may be adequately funded, without government having to incur more debts.

As to my record as taxpayer, I have tried my best to "walk the talk." Records with the BIR's Revenue District 79 will show that I have consistently ranked as the fourth largest individual income taxpayer. In 2006 alone, I paid P681,781 in income taxes as a businessman.

I also paid taxes for all the allowances that I received as a member of Congress. I declared these allowances as income.

The firm that I own, Herminio Teves & Co. Inc., has consistently ranked as the second largest corporate taxpayer in RDO 79, paying P4.164 million in 2006 alone. The company also has profit-sharing with its employees, in order for them to have a sense of ownership, and truly reap the benefits of their own labor.

I have also advocated that the mandatory filing of the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth by public officials and civil servants should include their ITRs.

Officials should serve as beacons of honesty, integrity and love of country. I have staunchly advocated that the highest officials, and not just mid-and low-level public officers, should be subjected to lifestyle checks.

As the elected Representative of my district for three consecutive terms, I performed mainly my duties as a lawmaker, and not as a power-broker riding on burning political issues of the day just to gain media mileage.

I kept a low profile on hard political issues, but passionately participated in and argued on issues concerning vital pieces of legislation covering crucially important financial and economic matters.

I have always spoken the truth. It is unfortunate that when I speak of the harsh realities that permeate our system of government, I have put myself in confrontational situations, because the truth that I have spoken of unsettle some people. •

BANTAY ELEKSYON

Poll watchdog gives Comelec failing grade

By Jerome Aning

THE POLL MONITORING BODY BANTAY Eleksyon gave the Commission on Elections a failing grade in the last elections, citing "unacceptable delays" in canvassing, incidents of violence, and numerous proclamation protests in an assessment report released yesterday.

The watchdog group set up by the Consortium on Electoral Reform, a coalition of more than 40 nongovernment organizations, proposed a two-pronged approach to cleaning up future Philippine elections: the automation of polls and a "top-to-bottom revamp" of the country's election commission.

The electoral reform coalition has a seat in the Comelec's Advisory Council.

Bantay Eleksyon said the current manual method of canvassing was "a demonstrated failure" in the May 2007 elections.

The manual procedures "easily led to unacceptable delays at every stage of canvassing, up to the proclamation of candidates, and was readily susceptible to various manipulations by unscrupulous persons who have motives to cheat in the elections."

The process, they added, was "vulnerable to threats of violence or disruption," particularly when the canvassing stretched to more than 24 hours.

On the performance of the Comelec, Bantay Eleksyon said it "performed adequately" only in the preparations for and supervision of canvassing processes.

"However, its handling of the various controversies that attended the canvassing leaves much to be desired in terms of coherent and timely decisions, firm leadership in the field, and non-partisanship," the group added.

Not by automation alone

Their verdict was that election automation alone would not work unless it was accompanied by a "top-to-bottom revamp" of Comelec.

The group referred to delays in the proclamation that were in turn caused by delayed canvassing, pre-proclamation protests, missing boards of election inspectors, missing or lost election documents, and accusations of cheating.

Many proclamations were under protest. The group said "This points, not only to a certain subculture of non-acceptance of an electoral loss, but also to the low credibility of the canvassing process itself."

Bantay Eleksyon also faulted Comelec for not having contingency plans regarding the intentional or forced absence of election officers or members of the boards of election inspectors.

The group noted the slow pace of the national canvassing process, that gave rise to suspicions of cheating. They pointed to the controversial Maguindanao certificates of canvass. They noted that inaccuracies in the canvassing that led to accusations of vote padding and shaving, also happened in Davao, Zambales, South Cotabato and other provinces.

It recalled that Comelec had projected the proclamation of national candidates within two weeks after the elections.

More than a month and a half after the polls, the canvassing of the senatorial and party-list elections has not been finished.

Only 11 out of 12 senatorial positions have been proclaimed. The last slot, a toss-up between GO candidate Aquilino Pimentel III and TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri, will be decided by the highly controversial canvass in Maguindanao, where Comelec tally sheets were reportedly "stolen."

No winning party-list group has been proclaimed although at least 15 groups have garnered more than the necessary two percent vote to win a seat in Congress.

Writing workshop for midlifers, seniors

THE BAGUIO WRITERS GROUP AND THE Baguio Country Club are cosponsoring a writing workshop for people in midlife (50 years old and above) and senior citizens on Aug. 11, 18 and 25, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the club's Pine Room.

Called "Stepping Stones: Begin Writing Your Life Story," the workshop will train participants to write their personal histories and leave a legacy to their children and grandchildren.

The facilitators are Prof. Grace Subido and Merci Javier-Dulawan.

Subido completed her undergraduate degrees in humanities and comparative literature at the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB), where she also finished her master's degree in language and literature. She teaches literature and writing courses there.

Dulawan, former faculty member of Marishan School, University of the Cordilleras and UPB, trained in Jungian dream analysis and life-study journal keeping.

There are 12 slots open for interested parties. Call or text 0916-2421637 for details.

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ERRATUM

The winning number of the June 8, 2007 draw of the Premyo Sa Resibo promo of the BIR, which came out in this newspaper on June 11, 2007, is **000058523573**, not 00005852357 as published. We are sorry for this error.

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Where we collect samples monthly

SAMPLING LOCATIONS	NUMBER OF SAMPLING POINTS
Residences	540
Schools	238
Hospitals	44
Other Institutions	127
TOTAL	949

How many samples do we get

CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF SAMPLING POINTS
Metro Manila	
Quezon City	168
Mandaluyong	69
San Juan	34
Taguig	73
Pateros	22
Makati	98
Manila	43
Marikina	104
Pasig	120
TOTAL	731

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF SAMPLING POINTS
Rizal	
Angono	13
Antipolo	48
Baras	2
Cainta	47
Jala-Jala	2
Montalban	38
San Mateo	35
Taytay	33
TOTAL	218

PAF museum inspires patriotism

From page A1

nation's history ... [Keeping alive] all of these things that Filipinos did in aviation—that's the role of the museum," said retired Lt. Gen. William Hotchkiss, who conceptualized the new museum during his term as PAF chief in 1997.

"Hopefully, when kids visit here, we can keep that memory alive and keep the pride burning inside, even while right at the moment, we are not as popular as we were in the 1960s when the [PAF] was, essentially, the best in Asia," Hotchkiss told the INQUIRER.

Private-state partnership

The new museum sits at the intersection of Sales Street and Andrews Avenue at Villamor Air Base, within sight of the still mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. It is just a hop away from the PAF's Aircraft Park, where 18 types of retired military aircraft are on permanent display for public viewing.

By way of partly explaining why construction took a decade, Col. Eduardo Diano, manager of the museum project and its curator, said it was put on the lower rung of government priorities during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The P86-million building was among the structures replicated for the PAF by the state-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority and private developer Megaworld Corp.

The private-state partnership has been pursuing a development project in an acquired area of the sprawling air base, converting parts of it to commercial and recreational use.

The old museum, a smaller two-story building, was torn down recently to give way to the conversion project. It hosted some 175,000 visitors, mostly students, last year.

Inspiring patriotism

"Definitely, this is much, much improved, although the old one had respectable [amenities] ... But this one, as you move around, will give you some sort of modern feel, which we should really aspire for," said Hotchkiss.

"If we always just look at the past, that's not good. More or less, the past should inspire the future. That's what the museum is for," he said.

Meant to inspire patriotism among visitors as soon as they enter it, the new museum welcomes patrons with a 6-meter by 9-meter Philippine flag hanging from the center of the ceiling.

Interactive displays are ready for the inspection of curious visitors—aircraft parts such as turbines, landing gears and engines, most of which were salvaged from the PAF's retired planes.

Also featured are parts and models of fighter jets that the PAF used in the 1960s and 1970s, including F-8 Crusaders and F-86 Sabre jets. The last jets that the PAF had were F5s, used until a deadly crash in 2002 and retired in 2005 when the military realigned its mission to anti-insurgency operations.

Currently, the PAF fleet includes decades-old C-130s and UH-1H choppers, most of which were acquired from allied air forces.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has promised to procure new equipment to help modernize the PAF, which its current chief, Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, had once admitted was among the weakest in Southeast Asia.

The commanding general expressed the hope that the museum would boost the morale of the men and women of the PAF.

"It will enhance our pride as an organization and, somehow, it will inform the public about the history of aviation in the Philippines. This will also give credit to our heroes. The public will know who the Philippine Air Force heroes are," Tolentino said.

135-degree pilot's view

For a feel of what it's like to sit in a fighter jet's cockpit, visitors may board an old bomber aircraft on display at the lobby or experience flight through a jet simulator that offers a 135-degree pilot's view through a wall monitor.

On the upper floor, visitors may view displays of PAF flags, uniforms and pilot badges, weapons, munitions and recovered mortar shells, accompanied by a recorded narration of their significance in military aviation.

Pictures provide a blast from the past—class photos of pilot batches, black and white and sepia stills of combat missions and of fighter pilots proudly posing beside their jets in the '60s and '70s, and portraits of PAF heroes who lost their lives in the name of air defense.

Visitors may also see war movies in a 50-seat theater on the ground floor. For functions, there is a second-floor auditorium big enough for 300 people.

Most, if not all, of the relics currently housed in the museum relate to the military, but Tolentino said the PAF would install more displays to include civil aviation history, as Hotchkiss had initially envisioned.

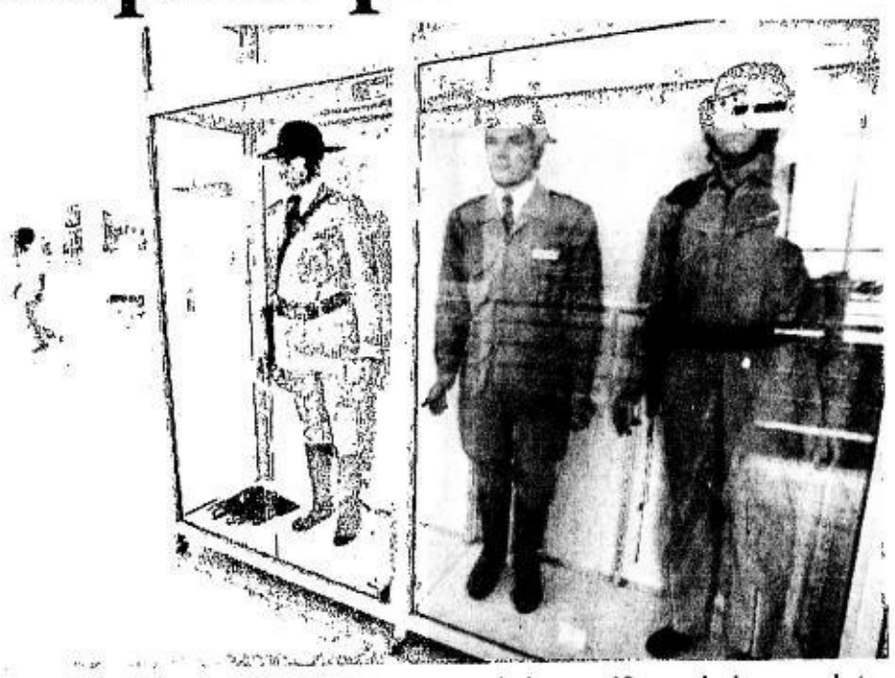
Open to visitors

The PAF Aerospace Museum started receiving visitors yesterday, when the service celebrated its Foundation Day.

Museum-goers are each charged P20. Those who wish to try the jet simulator are charged a separate fee of between P75 and P150.

Hotchkiss, who was among the lead planners of the museum, said 80 percent of what he dreamed the project would be had been fulfilled.

"Definitely, this museum will have an impact on the public's awareness of the role that aviation plays in national life ... And I do believe that this museum can house both civilian and military aviation history. But we can add more to the displays by getting the civilian sector involved," he said.



THE EVOLUTION of the Air Force uniform through the past 60 years is showcased at the new PAF museum at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. JESS YUSON

NINE ASEAN AIR FORCE CHIEFS are special guests at the PAF's 60th anniversary the 4th Asean Air Force Chiefs Conference hosted this year by PAF chief Maj. Gen. H

Government Warning
is dangerous

High court rejects Ong appointment

:elebration, together with President Arroyo. The chiefs are also here for loracio Tolentino. LYN RILLON

From page A1

we are disappointed, we will certainly respect the decision of the Supreme Court."

Appointment recalled

Ms Arroyo named Ong to the Supreme Court on May 16. But the following day, Malacañang recalled the appointment and held it in abeyance because of questions over his citizenship.

The Constitution requires members of the Supreme Court and other collegiate courts to be natural-born Filipinos.

Said the high court in its decision: "The petition is granted as one of injunction directed against respondent Gregory S. Ong, who is hereby enjoined from accepting an appointment to the position of associate justice of the Supreme Court or assuming the position and discharging the functions of that office, until he shall have successfully completed all necessary steps, through the appropriate adversarial proceedings in court, to show that he is a natural-born Filipino citizen and correct the records of his birth and citizenship."

It said the decision was final and immediately executory.

Marquez said that because the judicial process of correcting a birth certificate could take time, Ong might not finish it before July 28, the deadline for Ms Arroyo to appoint a replacement for Callejo, who retired on April 28.

The President has 90 days to appoint a replacement for a retired justice.

"Since the nominees for the position of associate justice is lodged with the Office of the President, perhaps the President can choose from the remaining nominees," Marquez said.

Other nominees

The other nominees submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to Ms Arroyo are Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro and Justice Francisco Villaruz, Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes and Justices Martin Villarama and Edgardo Cruz, Court of Tax Appeals Presiding Justice Ernesto Acosta, and Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Should Ong manage to correct his birth certificate and show he is a natural-born Filipino before the next Supreme Court justice retires, the President can perhaps appoint him again to the tribunal, Marquez said.

The next position in the high court will open in October, when Justice Cancio Garcia retires.

As for Ong's position in the Sandiganbayan, Marquez said this was not affected because the high court did not make a determination of whether Ong was Chinese, Filipino, or natural-born.

"Since there are no determinations to that effect, that appointment to the Sandiganbayan is presumed to be valid," he said, adding:

"There are no petitions to contest that appointment, so that remains valid unless later annulled."

Asked whether anyone could use the high court's decision to question Ong's position at the Sandiganbayan, Marquez said that in that case, the interested party would have to file a case.

Substantial corrections

In its decision, the high court said Ong would have to go through the lower courts to correct his birth certificate entry to reflect his citizenship because this could not be changed by mere administrative rulings.

"Substantial corrections to the nationality or citizenship of persons recorded in the civil registry should ... be effected through a petition filed in court," the tribunal said.

"The series of events and long string of alleged changes in the nationalities of respondent Ong's ancestors, by various births, marriages and deaths, all entail factual assertions that need to be threshed out in proper judicial proceedings so as to correct the existing records on his birth and citizenship," it added.

In a memorandum submitted to the JBC after Malacañang recalled his appointment to the Supreme Court, Ong had said that the entry in his birth certificate was wrong.

He said he was actually a natural-born citizen because his mother, Dy Guiok Santos, was a Filipino, having been born of a Filipino father.

He also said his mother had erroneously believed she was Chinese but that this did not mean she had lost her Filipino citizenship.

BI, DOJ

Ong had likewise cited the issuances of the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Justice in 1996 and 1997, respectively, stating that he was a natural-born Filipino.

But the high court noted in its decision that based on the records of Ong's petition to be admitted to the Philippine bar, he was a naturalized Filipino.

"The alleged subsequent recognition of his natural-born status by the Bureau of Immigration and the DOJ cannot amend the final decision of the trial court stating that respondent Ong and his mother were naturalized along with his father," it said. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

NEW FROM PHILIP MORRIS.

WINTER JUST GOT SHORTER.

Philip Morris King Size. Exceptional Menthol Cigarettes.

All diets have same result, says US study

From page A1

ple eat fewer calories worked better, as did those that involved more frequent visits to either diet groups or to a counselor's office.

Some good news

But there is good news—even a small, temporary weight loss can benefit health.

"A modest weight loss of 6 percent that is partially maintained for five years is likely to have important health benefits such as delaying the onset of diabetes," Dansinger said in a telephone interview.

Dansinger and his colleagues looked at the results of 46 trials involving nearly 12,000 people.

About half of the subjects were on diets. Dansinger said it was difficult to find good studies that included a control group not on a diet. It was also hard to find studies that followed people for more than three years.

The only commercial program included in Dansinger's study was Weight Watchers. Most of the programs were either sponsored by the government or a university.

Studies that included food or shakes were excluded from Dansinger's research because these studies did not include a nondieting group for comparison.

"The results we found—6-percent weight loss after one year—is in the same ballpark as most of the studies of weight loss, including studies of weight-loss medications," Dansinger said.

"We also found the weight loss gradually goes away so that about half the weight loss was gone within three years and almost all the weight loss was gone within five years. That is also similar to what has been found with weight-loss medications."

Dansinger said some of the studies included exercise, but his analysis was not designed to tell whether exercise helped weight loss last longer.

Nearly two-thirds of US adults are overweight or obese, with a higher risk of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, arthritis and cancer. *Reuters*

g: Cigarette smoking
to your health

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Dead end

EDITORIAL

TODAY MARKS 61 YEARS SINCE OUR REPUBLIC finally became independent (July 4 is formally Republic Day), but it remains chained to civil strife as our newly independent republic was back then. In 1946, President Manuel Roxas was poised to propose an amnesty to those accused of treason and collaboration with Japan, and proposals would eventually follow under his successor, President Elpidio Quirino, to offer amnesty to the communist Hukbalahap. Today, the ninth President since Roxas, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is also dangling the prospect of an amnesty to communist and military rebels.

Since the 1940s, untold misery has been visited on the country by communist rebels, whether the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas or today's Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army. The unquestionable folly of their ideology aside, much of the death and destruction have been due to administrations that lacked the confidence in democracy, or the political self-assurance, to make such misguided rebels turn away from running amok in the hills and promote their ideology by participating in the democratic process instead.

Having decided that the economic rehabilitation of the country required acceding to American demands for a privileged position only a constitutional amendment could guarantee, Roxas seemed unsure if he could get Congress to cooperate. What took place was the removal of congressmen who were Huk leaders, and some of their allies in the House and the Senate. The justification was that these leaders had committed fraud and terrorism. The result was a short-term gain—the Parity Amendment was approved by Congress—and a long-term disaster: convinced of the futility of participating in the democratic process, the Huks rebelled against the government. When the Huks were crushed and reduced to banditry, a new generation split off, and became today's CPP-NPA.

In 2006, as it was in 1946, the Philippine government decided that the political participation of the Left is a threat to national security, and it has pulled out all stops to diminish its influence. Along the way, besides trying to defeat the Left politically, political murders have increased and demands for accountability have generally been ignored. When the outcry became too loud to ignore, the government went through the motions of investigating, then denying, what's going on, but essentially did nothing, and punished no one.

By doing so the government ironically validates Karl Marx's observation that history is repeated, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. The world complained and the President hailed Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan—that was a tragedy. The European Union sent investigators to conduct a 10-day assessment to find out how the EU can help the government stop extrajudicial killings and the President appointed Norberto Gonzales as secretary of national defense ad interim—that was a farce. Everything—from the Melo Commission to the Alston Report to the endless reams of government statements welcoming, praising and echoing demands from the human rights community for the era of impunity to end and a new era of respect for human rights to begin—might as well have never happened at all, or has become essentially meaningless.

We have been down this road before. Then, as now, it led to a dead end. The path to democratic participation for communist rebels closed off by Roxas wouldn't reopen until the time of President Corazon Aquino, and with full democratic confidence, under President Fidel V. Ramos, which was all too brief a time. Eliminating accused Huk sympathizers from Congress in 1946 was counterproductive. Doing the same thing since 2006 is just as senseless. Yet even at their most brazen and brutal, the Liberals of the Roxas years and the Philippine Constabulary of the 1940s lacked the legal muscle Gonzales is poised to wield (with great relish, as his statements betray) the moment the Human Security Act comes into effect. Gonzales says the first target of the law will be the communists. We can be sure that will include anyone he considers sympathetic to their cause, too, including members of Congress.

The message is clear, to all people of good will, who continue to be concerned over human rights in our country: the administration doesn't care, because it has some scores to settle.

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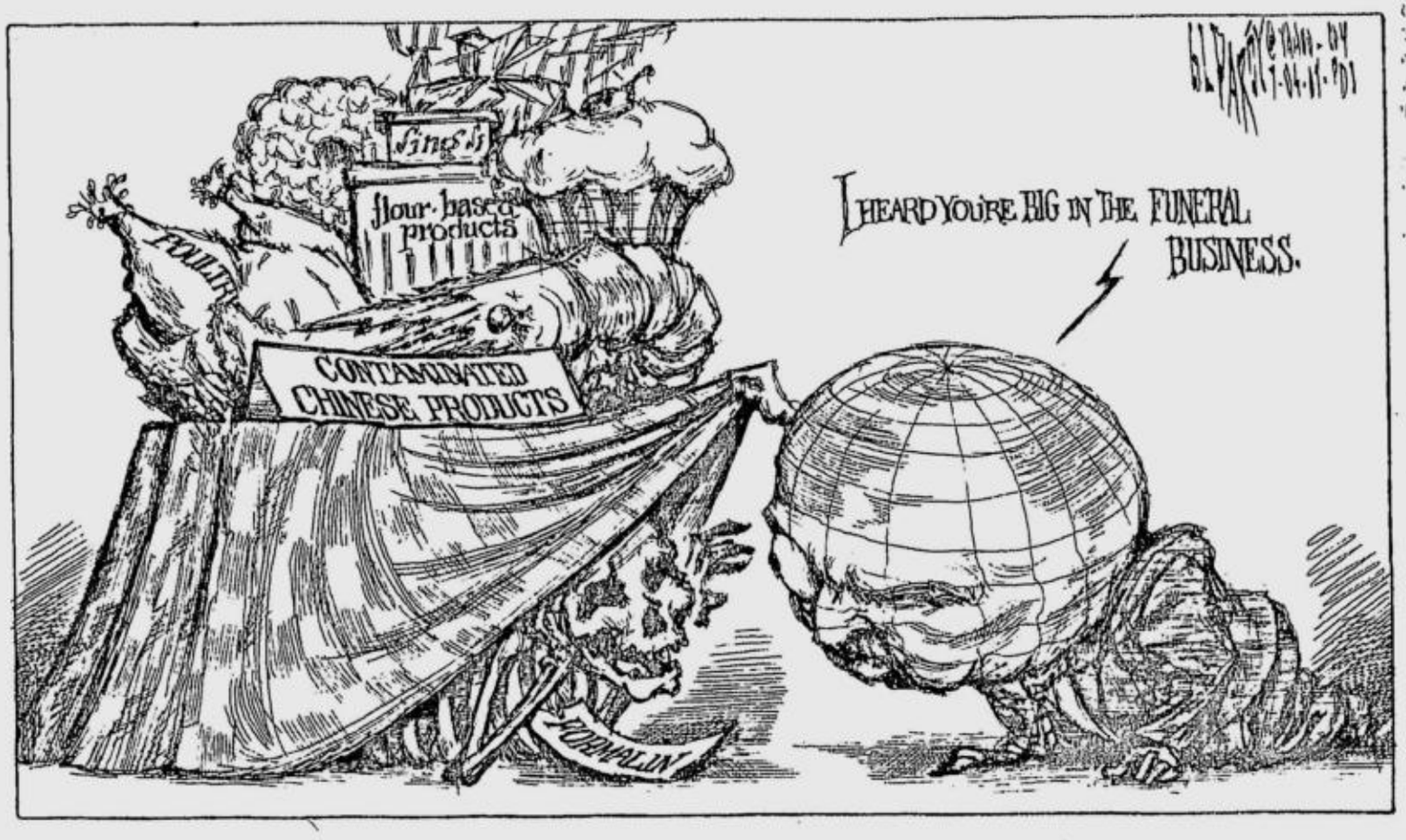

Erap on fight for Senate presidency

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE IS ANOTHER FEARLESS FORECAST: Manny Villar will be the Senate president of the 14th Congress. Sen. Nene Pimentel deserves to be the president of the supposedly opposition-dominated Senate, but administration senators and members of the Wednesday Group, administration and opposition, will vote for Manny, giving him at least 13 votes. Villar is a member of the Wednesday Group. Even some senators who just won in the Genuine Opposition ticket will vote for Villar.

Thus, Congress will be in an anomalous situation. In the House, both the speaker (Jose de Venecia of Lakas) and the minority leader (Pablo Garcia of Kampi) are in the administration camp. In the "opposition-dominated" Senate, the president (Villar of the NP) although elected in the opposition ticket, will be playing footsie with the GMA administration. The minority leader will be Nene Pimentel, a true-blue oppositionist.

If the Senate is truly opposition, its president should be a member of the opposition and the minority leader a member of the minority. But the line between the majority and the minority is being blurred by all this jumping around and switching loyalties by our "honorable" legislators. This early, the senators are already showing their true colors. Congress is like a garden in full bloom: there are so many butterflies flitting around, and the most numerous fruit in that garden is the *balimbing*.

The reason, of course, is that the fight for the Senate presidency is the start of the fight for the presidency of the Philippines in 2010. Senators with moist eyes on 2010 are Villar, Mar Roxas, Ping Lacson and Loren Legarda. The front runner in the ranks of the opposition is, of course, Vice President Noli de Castro, also a member of the Wednesday Group. It remains to be seen whether somebody in the administration will shine in the next three years to be a credible presidential contender

Speaker-to-be JDV has already run for the presidency and landed in the *kangkongan*. I don't think he will dare try again, considering how he was so deeply buried in a landslide of votes for his rival, Joseph Estrada, that he almost disappeared. That is why he wants so much to change the Constitution and switch to a parliamentary system where it would be easier for him to win as prime minister. He knows he can never be elected president.

But it is possible—no, probable—that Villar will jump to the administration side since his principal rivals are all in the opposition. Or the administration may adopt him as its presidential candidate (the same way the NP adopted then Senate President Ferdinand Marcos of the LP) if it cannot find a strong candidate from its ranks. That explains why Villar is now like a bat in a canoe.

That also explains why Villar has already made several visits to the Tanay estate of President Estrada, the acknowledged patron of the Genuine Opposition. When asked about his preference for the Senate presidency, Erap raises his hands and replies, "*Labas ako diyan.*" But it is obvious where his sympathies lie. Villar, he says, has made the long trip to Tanay several times already but Pimentel has yet to talk to him.

Choosing between Villar and Pimentel is difficult for Erap. It was Villar, as speaker, who railroaded the impeachment complaint against him and sent it to the Senate. On the other hand, it was Pimentel who held the microphone to GMA while she took her oath of office at Edsa to replace then President Erap. (But Pimentel was erased from the picture reproduced in peso bills, obviously with the permission of an ungrateful GMA.)

Erap, however, is pretty vocal about his choice for the chairmanship of the blue ribbon committee: anybody but Joker Arroyo (Arroyo and Lacson are vying for the post).

"Joker sat on the cases investigated by the blue ribbon," he said. "The Hello Garci tapes, the Joc-Joc fertilizer scam and other important cases still have no closure."

"'I will bust grafters,' Joker had promised, but he did not bust anything. He sat on them," Erap said. "'*Pag* bad *ka, lagot ka,*'" said his commercial, "*pero meron ba siyang nilagot sa napakadaming* bad elements in the GMA administration?"

* * *

Erap has not been idle while confined in his sprawling estate in Tanay. He has supervised the construction of one project after another inside its walls. He has built a museum with a projection room, a library, a helipad, including his future tomb (encased in black marble) on a hilltop. He has built an open-air deck over a big pond with plenty of swans, geese, ducks and flamingoes. He has built a Filipino-Indonesian fishing village with more ponds, waterfalls, streams, fountains and big and small cabanas. He has built a Western-style saloon and bar with huge photos and other memorabilia of him and his best friend Fernando Poe Jr. He has built a covered picnic area with a large swimming pool. He has built a chapel, a basketball court and several houses for himself and his guests.

His latest project is a Muslim Village with a mosque, a huge dining hall and other smaller picnic huts, another swimming pool with water slides, a rock-climbing wall, a hanging rope bridge, two lotus ponds, an aviary and picnic areas. It is as if he is building a resort for excursionists and picnickers.

The wonderful thing is that he made all the plans and supervised the construction himself. "I studied engineering (at the Mapua Tech) and lacked only two semesters to graduate," he said. The movies beckoned to him so he dropped out of school.

For the Muslim Village, he said, "I just copied it from a magazine, including the Muslim designs."

Looking at his finished projects, it is obvious he would have made a good engineer if he had not been sidetracked by show biz.

Fourth of July

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MOST FILIPINOS TODAY DON'T HAVE ANY recollection of it, but there was a time when we celebrated Independence Day on this day, July 4. That was the date the United States chose to grant us independence, to dramatize the point about the lives and fates of Filipinos and Americans being intertwined. That was an idea steeped in the most resonant myths and symbols, notably in the one about Filipinos and Americans fighting side by side in Bataan and Corregidor, being imprisoned and tortured in Intramuros, and winning hand-in-hand in Leyte and elsewhere.

The last had a not very minor variation in the most resonant myth of all, which was Douglas MacArthur coming back as pledged to pluck this country out of captivity. To this day, the phrase "I shall return" brings tears to the eyes of an older generation. The myths were not entirely untrue, though as the postwar years lengthened, the notion that the lives and fates of Joe and his Little Brown Brother were inseparably linked resided only in the mind of Little Brown Brother.

The point I'm making here is simply that what Diosdado Macapagal did, which was to change the date of Independence from July 4 to June 12, wasn't a middling thing. Notwithstanding that the nationalists were loudly calling for it, the popular sentiment was profoundly pro-American, bolstered in no small way by Hollywood war movies like "Bataan" and the sight of the Philippine and American flags fluttering in the breeze on the Fourth of July. It was a sentiment that brooked no sacrilege. Changing Independence Day from July 4 to June 12 was a sacrilege.

The change did not usher in the lasting impact the nationalists imagined. No small thanks to Macapagal's own policies of decontrol, the forerunner of his daughter's "globalization," which wrecked a fledgling but thriving industry and made the country more dependent on the kindness of strangers. But the change did usher in new possibilities. Certainly, it opened new vistas, or strengthened new directions, in interpreting Philippine history, such as the one Renato Constantino took—a history written "from within and not from without," or a history from the point of view of the colonized and not the colonizer.

The change from July 4 to June 12 was a powerful reminder of what independence and its related concepts—freedom and democracy—really meant. At the very least, as the nationalists argued then, independence is not granted, it is won. It does not come from the goodness of the heart of the conqueror, it comes from the fire in the hearts of those who refuse to be conquered.

It wasn't a mere nuance, it was a chasm. July 4 conjured the image of the American high commissioner handing over the reins of government to Manuel Roxas, which signified among other things that the fate of this country, including its capacity to be free, had never been in its hands, it had always been in the hands of others. June 12 invoked the image of Emilio Aguinaldo waving the Philippine flag from a balcony in Cavite to the strains of "Lupang Hinirang," heard for the very first time, proclaiming that Filipinos would no longer bear the yoke of Spanish rule. Those aren't just two different historical watersheds, those are two different worlds.

Constantino's version of Philippine history, "The Past Revisited," the one that is currently taught in schools, would subsequently pursue that point. It would look at the making of the Filipino nation not as the actions of the rulers but as the initiatives of the ruled in the torturous circumstances they found themselves in.

At the very most, it refuted an ideological doctrine that had largely gone unchallenged in these parts, namely that the Americans gave us democracy in the same way that the Spaniards gave us Christianity. That doctrine went: Whatever the motivation of the Americans for conquering these islands, and however they resorted to brutal means in pacifying resisters, they at least taught us democracy. Democracy being the ultimate realization of freedom, they taught us the spirit of freedom itself. They taught us to have a sense of independence.

I've never stopped being amazed by those related contentions. True enough, the Americans taught us the formal properties of democracy, but they never taught us the spirit of democracy. You cannot put a man in chains and teach him the meaning of freedom, you can only teach him the longing for freedom—from you. Indeed, you put a man in chains and you cannot teach him the meaning of freedom, you can only teach him the feeling of resentment—toward you. Mind-bogglingly in this 21st century, the United States, under the petty tyranny of George W. Bush, continues to push that doctrine with not very petty and completely murderous consequences. The United States, he says, is introducing democracy—and with it—true freedom in Iraq. What a thoroughly idiotic concept.

We may owe our knowledge of the formal elements of democracy to the Americans, but we owe our understanding of the deepest secrets of democracy, or our deepest longing to be free, to our heroes. To Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini and those who came after them, who fought oppression and whose struggle was the smithy that sent sparks of the democratic instinct flying in the air. All we owe to the Americans is our schizophrenic attitude toward democracy, our capacity to revel in its forms but to denigrate its substance. It is enough that we have elections even if the non-elected win. It is enough that we say no man is above the law even if a woman is so. It is enough that we enshrine human rights in the Constitution even if we murder to our hearts' content.

Today is July 4, the day America became independent. That at least is real independence. It wasn't given or taught, it was fought for, and won.

Dancing with a rogue empire

COMMENTARY

Roland G. Simbulan

JULY 4 MARKS THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF what has become the modern American Empire. July 4 also used to be our own Independence Day because while it was granted to us by our colonizer right after World War II, it became an outright farce as new economic, political and military agreements were imposed on us. Our July 4th "Independence Day" became too embarrassing, so we turned July 4 into "Philippine-American Friendship Day."

Today, we have joined the global "war on terror," led by what a former official of the US State Department, William Blum, called "The Rogue State." The Philippines has become an accomplice through the Balikatan military exercises which train US interventionist forces for missions around the globe.

More than half a million American troops are posted outside US territory (of which 137,000 are in Iraq) in at least 740 overseas military bases and facilities, mostly in Europe and Asia, to guard US corporate, vital resource and strategic interests. In fact, its armed legions have divided the world into "commands"—Pacific Command, Atlantic Command, Central Command, etc. On the other hand, it rules and dominates the high seas with gunboat diplomacy maintained by its naval carrier fleets and so-called "expeditionary forces." And in the past five years, in contravention of the UN Security Council, it has invaded and occupied two sovereign states which were recognized by the United Nations.

A recent book, "Empire and the Bomb," by Dr. Joseph Gerson, an American scholar of East Asian affairs, states that the United States engaged in more than 150 military interventions between 1899 and 2000, in complete disregard of the sovereignty of small states. It is the only country that actually exploded nuclear weapons against the people of a non-nuclear state. According to Gerson, the United States has threatened the use of nuclear weapons to preserve its global empire on more than 20 occasions against other countries. Today, it continues to threaten to use and to detonate nuclear weapons against smaller countries.

But the United States is not just guilty of applying a double standard in the matter of nuclear weapons; it also does so when it comes to human rights and democracy. The Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo prisons—or even those long-ago atrocities committed against a distant people, the Filipinos, during the "pacification" war in the early 1900s—all speak of how the United States truly regards human rights.

The Bush administration's foreign policies have, in fact, only increased the enemies of the United States worldwide, among families left behind by those who were obliterated by American bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq. Six years after 9/11, the United States, the rogue empire, has not diminished the threat to its homeland or to its interests. Instead, it has become the No. 1 recruiter of its most feared "terrorist" enemies.

Thousands of promising young Americans just out of their teens, especially from minority families—Blacks, Hispanic and Asian, including Filipino-Americans—who have joined the US armed forces either for employment or for the much-coveted US citizenship, are being used as cannon fodder in a useless, senseless war.

Recently, the American people expressed their anti-war sentiment by voting for Democrats in both chambers of the US Congress. We should support those Americans who oppose war and intervention in other sovereign countries. They are our allies as we are theirs in the struggle for peace.

A few years ago, a Filipino war veteran who survived Bataan and the Death March and who now lives in San Diego, California, wrote me a lengthy letter saying I was an ingrate ("*walang utang na loob*") for opposing US policies in the Philippines and in other countries. I wrote back to our *kababayan* to clarify two points:

First, I said, when Filipinos strongly articulate pro-Filipino and pro-sovereignty positions on issues such as the Subic rape case, they do not seek to disrupt or sever our ties with the United States. On the contrary, what we seek is the improvement of those ties, which have been weakened by unequal, one-sided relations. Because after all, when we talk about true "friendship," we assume that there should be mutuality and respect. When one treats the other as a doormat, you cannot expect such a relationship to flourish.

Second, those who are strongly against US interventions are not anti-American, but are in fact, pro-American people. The activities of the US government in many Third World countries are not necessarily supported by the American people, let alone known by the latter because these are hidden under the cloak of secret operations by the Central Intelligence Agency. But whenever they are exposed, opposition develops against these practices. There is opposition because of the serious budgetary deficits caused by overspending on defense, eating away a big portion of the US budget that should have gone to basic social services for the American people.

If we succeed in stopping US wars and other forms of military interventions overseas, we would in fact be doing the American people a big favor. More money could be channeled to where it should be spent: social services. This is where the deeper and more substantial interests of the Filipino and American peoples can actually converge.

Roland G. Simbulan is a professor at the University of the Philippines, and is the author of several books on Philippine-American relations.

Transforming celebrity into power

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PARENTS OF YOUNG BOYS KNOW THE DRILL. Every year, as Christmas approached, we wracked our brains for the best gift for our son, whom since the birth of his younger sister everybody has called "Kuya."

The process involved keeping up to date with the coolest—or hottest—toys and action figures of the moment. It wasn't enough to get your hands on a G.I. Joe or Ninja Turtle model. First, it had to be authentic, and then it had to be in the latest gear or pose. But the authentic models were also outrageously expensive, and many times we cursed the clever toy manufacturers and their marketers, as well as the cartoon, movie and comics tie-ins who made their products the "must-have" gifts of the season.

Among boys of my son's generation, the "Transformers" were particularly desirable. I don't know which came first, the cartoon series or the toys, but both involved alien robots who roamed Earth in the guise of various machinery, including trucks, cars and aircraft. In the years the "Transformers" were the biggest draws in the juvenile market, we kept our ears and eyes open for which among the Autobots or Decepticons was Kuya's current favorite.

I remember one Christmas season searching countless department store shelves for the latest model of "Optimus Prime," the leader of the Autobots. I blew the shopping budget on the figure and waited with my husband for the glimmer of joy in our son's eyes as he beheld his gift. A few days later, he came running to us in tears. A cousin of his, while transforming Optimus Prime, had broken a limb of the Autobot. All I could think of while consoling him was how many payments I still had to make on the danged toy.

* * *

SO you can understand why the entire family was pumped to watch "Transformers" the movie. "I was never a big Transformers fan," my daughter explained as we exited the movie house. "But we had only one TV in the house at the time, and I had to endure hours of watching wrestling and Transformers."

But whether your devotion is real, or the fruit of an unwanted habit enforced by your Kuya, "Transformers" the movie is a real treat. If only for the special effects, the seamless, flawless blend of live action and CGI, the ticket price is well worth your time and enthusiasm. A reviewer reported that "Transformers" devotees, who could be expected to nit-pick the film for any false note or deviation from dogma, were unanimous in their verdict that the cartoon-to-movie adaptation was spot on.

While Shia LeBeouf shows promise as the upcoming "it" boy of Hollywood, with his sassy, likeable aw-shucks persona, it was the alien robots who really shone. I especially liked the way the creators gave each of the Autobots a personality, establishing character in a few deft strokes of dialogue and voice.

"Transformers," I'm told, is already on its way to a creating a franchise, with the second movie already shooting. Even if Megatron, the evil leader of the Decepticons, is supposed to have "died" and been buried in an ocean trench at movie's end, it's clear his lieutenant, which transforms into a fighter jet, has survived and will return to wreak havoc once more on our planet. Not to worry, Optimus Prime and the other Autobots are still around, and are hotter than ever, I bet.

* * *

THERE was no CGI involved in the recent "Concert for Diana," but it was nonetheless a blockbuster. I found myself staying up till nearly 2 a.m. to finish the concert aired on Star TV. In all, announcers said the show lasted nine hours, drawing up to 70,000 Londoners to Wembley Stadium for an event that was meant, said Princess Diana's sons, Princes William and Harry, to celebrate her life and not merely to remember her death.

It seems unbelievable that 10 years have already passed since Princess Diana's death, since those days when we sat before our TV sets, tuned to BBC or CNN, to follow the events after the shocking announcement of her death in a Paris underpass.

The images from her funeral remain clear: the envelope with "Mum" printed on it perched amid the flowers sitting on her casket; the two princes marching somberly together with their father and uncle; the masses of flowers left by a grieving public in front of Kensington Palace; Elton John giving his friend a heartfelt tribute in song.

If there was any doubt about Diana's mothering skills, these were completely erased by the interview with her sons by Today's Matt Lauer. The two princes, who have coped with relentless media scrutiny since birth, proved to be personable and sensitive, down-to-earth, and quite realistic in their assessment of their roles in British society and their own futures.

* * *

BUT they are also dutiful sons, and honored the memory of their mother by using their celebrity and star power to stage a humongous concert featuring artists that bridge the generations—Diana's favorite performers as well as their own.

From my point of view, there was nothing to criticize about the concert, well, save for a few glitches here and there and Ricky Gervais' painful holding action. But otherwise, the show was a both a glitzy spectacle and an amazingly intimate portrait of the woman that Diana was, especially through the stories told by people who had met her or worked with her personally, mostly in the various charities and causes she championed.

True, Princess Diana was flawed—as all human beings are—but at some point, she decided to use her celebrity status to help other people, thereby ratcheting up her own fame and fanning the media's obsession even further. This seems a lesson well-learned by William and Harry, and I think they need only follow their instincts in the future to survive the unforgiving media glare that they must live with.

Intertwined

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOME FILIPINOS INSIST THAT OUR INDEPENDence Day should be marked from July 4, 1946 rather than going back all the way to June 12, 1898. If not for the official holiday fixed for us by President Diosdado Macapagal, Independence Day would probably be interchangeable depending on which historic date one wishes to follow. To further complicate things, the choice is not limited to July 4 and June 12 because there are about a dozen other historic dates competing for our attention.

All this brings to mind the time when a feature of the present P100 bill sparked controversy because it seemed, to the biased complainant, that the American Stars and Stripes was more prominent than the Philippine flag. Why, the misguided asked, is a foreign flag allowed on our currency? Again this was an issue of perspective, because the scene memorialized on the bank note happened on July 4, 1946, when the American flag was hauled down and the Philippine flag was hoisted and made to fly alone, a visible sign that we were a free and independent nation.

It pains me to see so many Philippine flags still flying along the streets of Metro Manila and left to the elements, remnants of our Independence Day celebration last June 12. Every year flags are put on display in May for Flag Day, but these are not taken down after June 12 because the flags are treated like buntings, or as we call them "*banderitas,*" to make the streets more festive. Why we can't take them down is a mystery to me.

Just recently, I was listening to someone narrate what he felt when he saw our flag go up on July 4, 1946. He remembered the pride and tears that came over him. After hearing this, I dug up the texts and re-read President Harry S. Truman's recognition of Philippine independence as read by US High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt. Emilio Aguinaldo who was still alive and kicking at the time was quoted to have said that the United

rightfully won by the Filipinos in 1898.

Then I re-read the inaugural address of Manuel Roxas as first president of the Third Republic and my skin crawled as he opened with these words:

"An historic drama has just been unfolded before your eyes. The American flag has been lowered from the flagstaffs of this land … not in defeat, not in surrender, not by compulsion, but by the voluntary act of the sovereign American nation. The flag which was first raised in conquest here has been hauled down with even greater glory. The Stars and Stripes will no longer fly over this land, but in the hearts of 18 million Filipinos and in the eyes of many millions more in this part of the world, the American flag flies more triumphantly today than ever before in history. Some hundreds of yards from here, at Fort San Antonio Abad [today within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas complex along Roxas Boulevard], the American flag was first planted in 1898. As its brave colors fluttered down from the flagstaff a moment ago, the cycle of history had completed a full turn. In the culmination today, America justified her destiny. For America, today's act of renunciation was the climax of triumph … for enlightenment, for democratic values, for liberty. We mark here today the forward thrust of the frontiers of freedom."

These may have been inspiring words at the time. But when read today in the context of history, we cringe. Our skin crawls for another reason and the same words are taken differently. Roxas continues:

henceforth alone and unshadowed over the entire Philippines. American sovereignty has been withdrawn. It has been transferred and is now possessed in full measure by the Filipino people."

There is little reference in the speech to the Philippine Revolution of 1896 or the Declaration of Independence in Kawit on June 12, 1898. There was either, no reference to the Filipino-American War.

The way I have been taught Philippine history makes me react differently to Roxas' inaugural.

How, for example, am I to respond to these historic words:

"As the spokesman for America predicted half a century ago, the Filipino people now look back with gratitude to the day when God gave victory to American arms at Manila Bay [when Adm. George Dewey and his modern armored ships sank Spanish Adm. Patricio Montojo's fleet that one observer described as 'floating antiques'], and placed this land under the sovereignty and protection of the United States."

How are we to react to these words:

"Long before the coming of America to the Philippines, our aspirations for nationhood had been influenced by thoughts and doctrines originating in the United States. The philosophers of our several revolutions were inspired by the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Bill of Rights, and the Federal Constitution… The Philippine Declaration of Independence borrowed even the language of the great American charter of liberty."

The history of our June 12 Independence Day is forever intertwined with that of the American National Day, July 4, and how we take and understand these dates say a lot not just about the Philippine history we learned in school, but what we think and believe of the Philippines as a people and a nation.

* * *

Good food

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE SQUEEZE CONTINUES ON CHINESE EXPORTS, THIS time with the United States imposing stricter guidelines on the entry of five types of farm-raised seafood because of fear of contamination from unapproved drugs and food additives.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an "import alert" last week on shrimp, catfish, eel, basa (a fish similar to catfish) and dace. Under the import alert, importers must provide independent testing to prove the seafood does not contain contaminants. The FDA said they took action after years of warnings and visits to Chinese fish ponds showed no signs of improvement.

I suspect the US government has other political reasons behind the all these restrictions, but this does not mean we should be taking the US moves for granted. There are very real issues of safety, especially for food, that need to be confronted. With our close trading ties with China, we should also be looking at what they export to us. I've already written several columns about this, including one just last Friday about the growing list of countries taking action against Chinese products, from toothpaste to car tires.

The latest US restriction, however, brings up still another issue, specifically around food. Just what is it that makes us want to keep importing food, and what should we be doing, for the long term, to cut down on this dependence?

De lata

After my column came out last Friday, I got feedback from different people, mainly expressing concern that our government might be too lax about imported items. Over the weekend, I read that our Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) was checking out reports about the Chinese government closing down 180 food manufacturers using formaldehyde and other contaminants.

A BFAD official pointed out that we are not even sure if these products are exported. I agree, but that doesn't mean we should let our guard down. It would be useful for the BFAD to check with the FDA's database of banned imports. According to The New York Times, in May alone, the United States turned away 165 shipments from China, including monkfish that was "filthy and unfit to be eaten," frozen catfish nuggets with animal drugs and tilapia contaminated with salmonella (a kind of bacteria). In April, 257 shipments were rejected, including 68 involving seafood. That included frozen eel with pesticides, catfish with salmonella again and "filthy" frozen yellowfin tuna steaks.

Our desire for imported foods dates way back to, or maybe even before, the colonial period, when we began to equate "good" food with imported products. Under the Americans, "good" food meant processed foods, with the wonders of food processing dazzling Filipinos as a sign of modernity. To this day, many Filipinos still crave for imported canned foods like *carne norte* (corned beef, christened as meat from the north) or Spam (which always shocks Americans because the food has a totally different class connotation in the United States).

Christmas was a time when the imported foods were at an even greater premium: apples and oranges and *keso de bola* (cheese). Today, it doesn't have to be Christmas before one finds these imported items. With import liberalization, we have opened our doors to all kinds of products, from Thai fish sauce (*patis*) to dried apricots from Turkey and fruit juices from South Africa.

The variety can be enticing, especially with the aura of exoticism attached to these foods, but we forget that together with the exotic qualities, we might want to know more about the imports: Where were they planted? How much pesticides were used? What preservatives and additives were used? Have the foods expired? Did the foods go through our regulatory boards, or were they smuggled in?

Another issue is the impact of these imports on local agriculture. We are flooded with Chinese fruits, many cheaper than local ones. Instead of supporting our farmers with better roads so they can get their fruits quickly and more efficiently into the markets, we've allowed the imports to come in with no limits. The results can be disastrous: We've seen how cheap vegetables from Australia have practically killed our own vegetable industry in La Trinidad, Benguet, with many farmers now shifting to cut flowers.

If you like some of the imported fruits, vegetables and herbs, find ways to grow them here. Recently a neighbor gave us luscious *longan*, a Chinese fruit, grown from seeds of imported fruits that they had bought locally. Last weekend, too, I found some mouth-watering canistels being sold in the Lung Center Sunday market. Canistel? That's the English name for *tiesa*. The ones being sold in the Sunday market were big and sweet, foreign varieties but grown locally. I'm open to that kind of experimentation, so long as local varieties are not displaced.

Safety

Let me deal now with the recent US Food and Drug Administration's import alert. The issue here is the way Chinese farmers have been raising fish and shrimp. These are farmed in ponds in large numbers, which make them prone to disease. To prevent the disease outbreaks, the farmers use antifungals and antibacterials which are banned by the United States. These include nitrofurans, malachite green and gentian violet, long-term exposure to which have been correlated with cancer in laboratory animals. The Chinese farmers also use fluoroquinolone antibiotics, which the US government bans for aquaculture because of fears this will bring about antibiotic resistance in the future.

The new FDA directive alerts us to the growing fears in developed countries of the links between bad livestock and aquaculture practices and public health. In the Philippines, we have to worry not just about Chinese imports but also about local products and contamination by hormones, steroids and other drugs. There are laws regulating the use of these pharmaceuticals and other food additives, but implementation is not easy.

As in agriculture, there is a tiny but growing organic movement with livestock raisers. You can find products now like free-roaming chickens, meaning poultry allowed to roam freely rather than being kept in cages and fed hormones and antibiotics. There are also eggs from free-roaming chickens. These products are still very expensive because of economies of scale, but maybe in the future, with a greater demand for them, we will see prices coming down.

That's going to take time, since we still need to re-educate ourselves and our taste buds to redefine good food as fresh food, preferably grown locally and organically. Sometimes, I wonder if that will ever happen, given the barrage of mass media messages pushing the imported, processed foods and the lack of government support for small farmers who want to go organic with agriculture and livestock.

If you're wondering, yes, native chickens have always

GO victory not a vote for Erap

NOW THAT THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS are over—and with the trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada done—there is no reason for the Sandiganbayan to delay handing down its decision on the case.

We have suspected all along that the Arroyo administration has been treating Estrada with kid gloves in an apparent attempt to appease his still considerable army of loyal followers, estimated at about 30 percent of the electorate—what with all those amenities and conveniences afforded to suit his whims and caprices, thus pampering him and making him behave like a spoiled brat.

The resounding victory of the Genuine Opposition in an election, seen by many as a referendum on her presidency, should convince President (?) Macapagal-Arroyo that all her efforts to win over Estrada's loyalists to her side have failed; and that the will of the majority is beyond the influence of her "command votes," or calibrated preemptive response.

Her Team Unity candidates, save for two of them, have been clobbered and she has been stingingly repudiated. This clearly sends the message that, today, she and her minions are the most reviled politicians, that they have no right to be where they are.

As for Estrada and his fans, they should not rejoice over GO's victory. The votes for GO candidates were not for him; neither were they a call for his "rehabilitation." Estrada's fortune was that his successor failed to prove that she is better than him. Instead, she showed the world that she is as bad as—if not worse than—he is.

The victors may raise a toast to their electoral success, but they should be careful not to get drunk, lest they forget that they have to pay back not only those who voted for them but also the rest of the Filipinos whom they have yet to convince of their honest desire to serve the national interest. We just hope and pray that they will not fail us.

God bless this nation.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
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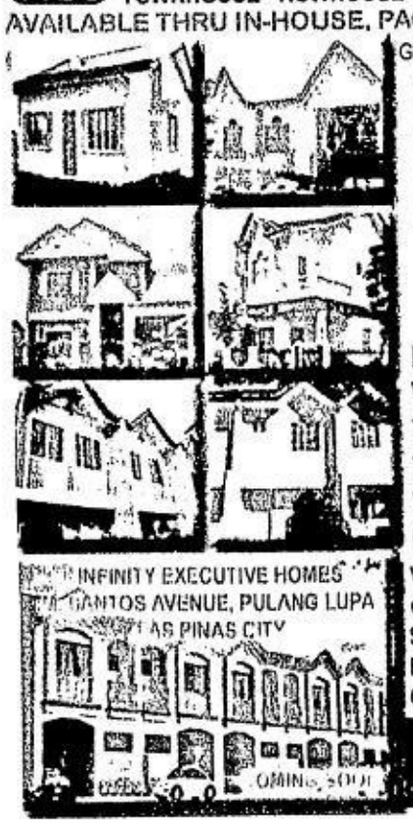

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Petty tyrants

IN SOME DECISIONS, THE SUPreme Court calls them "petty tyrants." They are judges who think they are the "lords of the realm" who can do whatever they want. We read about them and their "tyranny" in newspapers, every day.

A recent case involves a reporter who was sued for libel. (INQUIRER, 6/22/07) According to the news report, the complainant and the accused had already arrived at a settlement. But the "moody" judge, for reasons only she knows, allegedly delayed her release. She should be made to account for the injustice.

Millions of taxpayers' money have been spent in support of the Supreme Court's "mediation process" to help parties settle their disputes amicably. The principal aim is to "declog the court" of cases. But if truth be told, many judges pay little heed to this process. The judges would rather put up all kinds of obstacles to make settlements "technically" unattainable—and, in many instances, for a hundred thousand reasons.

—STEVE Y. VESPERA, Esq.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Shadowy and sinister logic

"A LAW WITH NO RULES IS clearly a lawless policy."

This is in reaction to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's statement that the Anti-Terror Council is not beholden to present the guidelines for the antiterrorism law (Human Security Act) to the public because the government has to "implement it first." Ermita's logic is shadowy, if not sinister.

What sort of law is that whose parameters the public is not entitled to an explanation? Ermita's statement does not at all allay fears that the antiterrorism law is nothing but a hooded policy for martial rule. Various youth and student groups are right to express their concerns about the law because they have long been victimized by government officials' abuse of authority.

Way before the law was approved, the public saw the unnecessary use of force by government officials in dispersing youth and student rallies. Will the law allow such atrocities? Youth and student leaders will become easy targets of the law because of the sectors' growing dissent against the government for its failure to address concerns such as the worsening education crisis.

We can liken the implementation of the antiterrorism law to the curtailment of youth and student rights during the martial law era. Now, as then, the youth and students will not sit back and be silenced.

—ELEANOR DE GUZMAN,
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Agri secretary's 'great escape'

THIS REFERS TO THE INQUIRER'S front-page story titled "Fisheries officials, fishermen trade places." (INQUIRER, 6/24/07)

The national leadership of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) viewed this latest immersion program of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap as nothing but a great escape from reality and a propaganda, albeit a super road show presentation.

We did not participate in that absurd and grossly insulting program. When we heard about it, we alerted our leaders and members across the country not to entertain it.

Pamalakaya does not want to be part of government-sponsored carnivals initiated just to boost the stock of an alienated government and give legitimacy to Yap's anti-fisherfolk and pro-monopoly programs.

Perhaps, Yap merely wants to be called the undisputed "king of the agriculture department" and use the fisherfolk leaders as his "knights" in this government's version of "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table."

To set the record straight, the problems of Filipino fisherfolk had been presented before to the Department of Agriculture—at its national, regional and provincial offices and its line agency, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Since 1987, Pamalakaya has been holding dialogues with the DA and BFAR, informing them about the pressing problems facing the fisheries sector, but the fisherfolk's complaints and recommendations have been completely rejected by these agencies.

Are they deaf? Are they blind? We have been talking about the problems of small fishermen across the country for two decades. And now Yap wants to know and understand the continuing struggle of Filipino fisherfolk for sectoral and class emancipation?

We have won many battles not because the government is kind and pro-people, not because the DA and BFAR are working hand-in-hand to help solve our problems, but because of our organized and collective action.

This is not the first time Pamalakaya rejected a government offer. In 2001, weeks after the successful People Power II that ousted former President Joseph Estrada, the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) offered us a seat in its board of directors.

Of course, the government and key persons in the PFDA will deny that six years ago, they asked our group to join this club only to be rejected and snubbed by our leaders and members.

Going back to the DA immersion program, we believe Yap needs a 24/7 reality check so he would grow up and think with a mature and realistic mind. Enough of his cheap shots at the political box office. The secretary should get real.

—FERNANDO L. HICAP,
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Comelec failed voters' expectations

BY EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT of suffrage, a significant percentage of the voting population, even in the aftermath of the Hello Garci controversy, was prepared to give the Commission on Elections an opportunity to redeem itself in the 2007 midterm elections. However, the Comelec has not done enough to win the people's confidence. Its actions and decisions have not inspired trust. The 2007 elections are over, but the credibility of the Comelec remains low, its reputation still tainted by the public perception that its chair and some commissioners are too close to Malacañang and the political party in power.

Consider the following: (1) the deliberate attempt to sabotage and undermine the candidacy of Genuine Opposition candidate Alan Peter Cayetano, and the highly unfair decision by one of its divisions on the Jesse Robredo citizenship case; (2) the initial decision not to disclose the names of party-list nominees in an obvious attempt to protect the Malacañang-backed party-list groups from public scrutiny; the Supreme Court later ordered the Comelec to disclose the names of party-list nominees; (3) the unexplained loss of election forms in the Comelec's own storage facility; (4) the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters due to the late release of the certified voters' list; (5) the unfinished task of cleansing the voters' list of dead persons and double registrants; (6) the failure to suspend or reassign Comelec personnel involved in the Hello Garci scandal; some were even promoted and given charge over areas where the alleged election cheating took place in 2004; (7) the failure to automate the elections; (8) the inability to enforce election laws on illegal campaign posters and vote-buying, among others.

There seems to be solid constitutional grounds to impeach the Comelec chair and some of the commissioners. But given the administration's majority in the House of Representatives, this is an impossibility. Meantime, the electorate is again likely to contend with a fraudulent, confusion-marred and slow vote count in the 2010 presidential election.

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The zero-sum-game fallacy

GERALD T. MAGNO MIGHT HAVE been misinformed when he wrote the letter "Overpopulation is not a myth." (INQUIRER, 6/8/07)

The United Nation's "World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision" shows that the Philippines is not the world's 12th most populous country. Our population density of 282 people per square kilometer (2005) puts us near the 40th out of 230 countries; Italy ranks around 50th.

Overpopulation is not simply a function of the size or density of the population. It can be determined using the ratio of population to available resources. If a given environment has a population of 90 million people but there is enough food, shelter or water for more than 90 million, then there is no overpopulation.

The United Nations report "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2006" states that a smaller percentage of the population of developing countries is undernourished today compared to that of 1990-1992. Projections suggest that it will become better. The report also states: "The world is richer today than it was 10 years ago. There is more food available and still more could be produced without excessive upward pressure on prices. The knowledge and resources to reduce hunger are there. What is lacking is sufficient political will to mobilize those resources for the benefit of the hungry."

It is easy to think that population growth causes poverty. But economics does not bear out that reducing population would also reduce poverty. There is a fallacy called zero-sum-game. It reduces the economy to a pie with fixed ingredients. There's nothing more erroneous. People do more than consume. People produce. Technology, a product of human creativity, helps economies grow. There is no strong and significant positive or negative relationship between poverty and population growth.

Michael Miller, in his article "Population and Poverty," wrote: "Factors that create economic growth and development: consistent rule of law for all citizens, property rights, sensible regulation, and a culture that encourages and rewards entrepreneurial behavior."

Overpopulation, like poverty, is a condition. It is a situation when the population of a given area is more than the surrounding environment can support. Magno is entitled to think that our country is overpopulated. For the economic reasons cited previously, I agree with Nicolo F. Bernardo's view: Overpopulation is a 20th-century myth. (INQUIRER, 5/26/07)

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL G. CAPARAS JR.,
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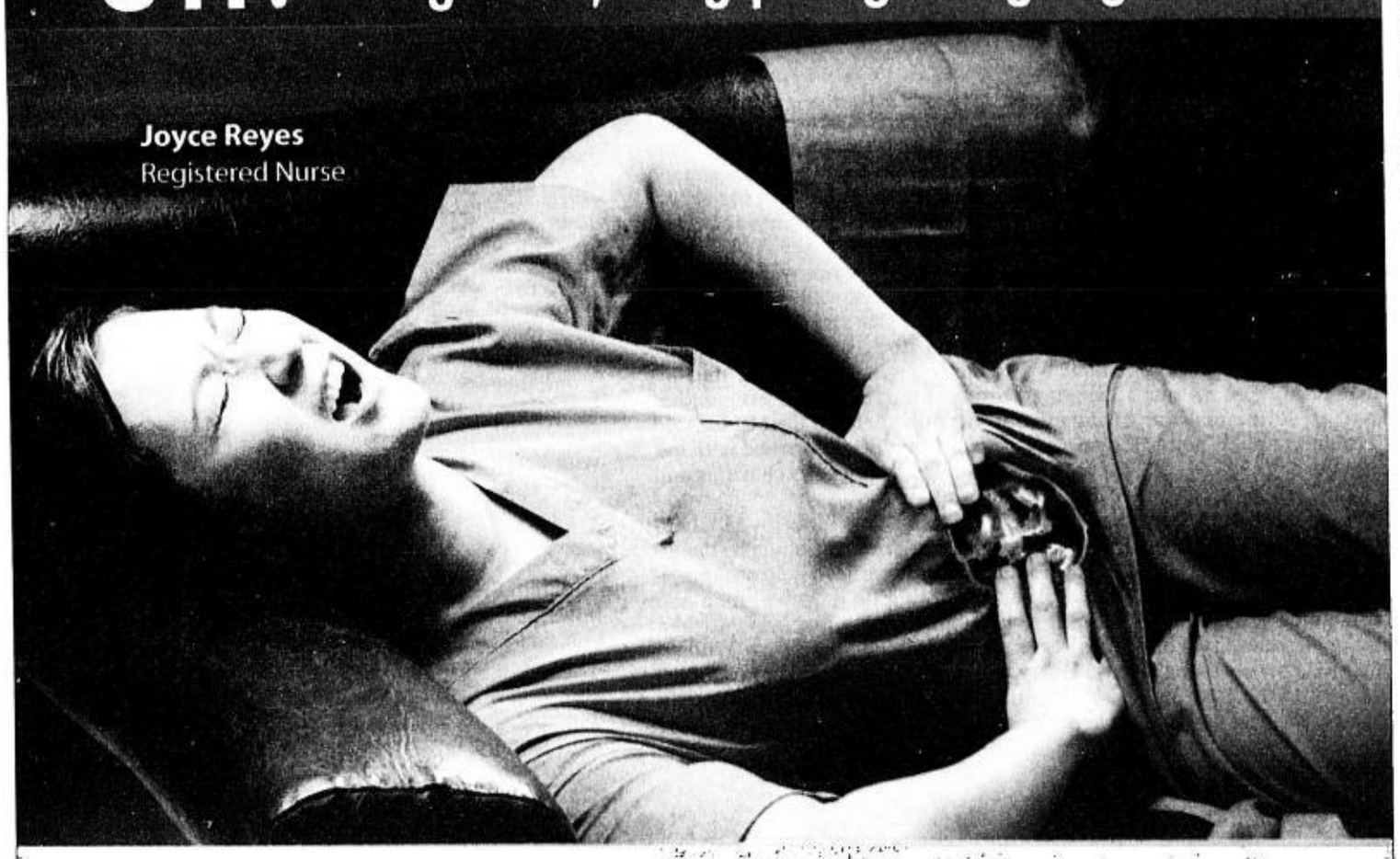
UTI? "Ang sakit, daig pa'ng nanganganak."



Iwas UTI. Iwas hapdi at sakit.

Ang UTI at Cystitis ay hindi lamang simpleng sakit sa pag-ihi. Ang sakit at hapdi na nararamdaman ay lubos na nakakaapekto sa maraming aspeto ng buhay at trabaho. Bagama't karaniwan sa babae ang ganitong uri ng sakit, maaari rin itong makuha ng mga lalake. At kahit nagamot na ay malaki ang tsansang magpabalik-balik ang UTI. Pinakamabuting gawin ay iwasan ang UTI.

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Kibungan rekindles passion for pottery

By Donna Demetillo
Kibungan, Benguet

WHEN REYNALDO PELLOS, a US Peace Corps volunteer, arrived in Kibungan, Benguet, in 2002, he immediately sought out village potters to observe how they worked.

An environmental scientist with a passion for pottery, Pellos looked forward to a stint in the town, where pottery is an old village tradition.

He found the last of these potters at the edge of a small river in Sitio Abas in Barangay Poblacion.

Pacito Kagap, then 89, spent most of his latter years pensively inside his house and its surroundings. "He was not bedridden but he was just hanging out in his house. He was too old to teach," Pellos said.

In a sentimental moment, Kagap showed Pellos his last remaining clay pipe.

"[Kagap] was famous for his clay pipes. People from all over came to have one," he said.

Six months later, Kagap died. Pellos felt that it seemed Kagap was just waiting for someone to breathe life anew into the craft he had loved.

Pellos has taken on the task ardently for the past five years. Today, Kibungan is earning a reputation for its clay craft.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has provided Pellos a grant to revive and develop the art of pottery in the town.

Pellos, 29, is a Filipino-American, which is why a Philippine assignment as a Peace Corps volunteer was close to his heart. He said he wanted to reconnect to his roots in Cavite, his father's home province.

Equipped only with a brief orientation on Kibungan culture and elementary conversational skill in Kankanaey, Pellos blended with the community, now his home for the last five years.

Pellos finished environmental engineering at the University of Georgia, but he says he has an equal passion for pottery and photography. He spent a semester studying photography and clay techniques in Europe.

His stint as a volunteer officially ended in 2004, but he felt that he had to continue his initiatives in Kibungan. Pellos chose not to return to the United States, where more lucrative jobs await, but instead worked on his papers to extend his residency in Kibungan.

Now speaking the language, he is an adopted Kankanaey son. He stays with the Bolislis family, who lost a son several months before Pellos came to town.

For Zosimo and Magdalene Bolislis, Pellos is "heaven sent." He eased their sorrow over their lost son.

School of living traditions

Pellos went around Kibungan soon after his conversation with Kagab to test the clay quality from every area.

He found at least 50 kinds of clay, of several colors and grades (from ordinary to high quality). He even discovered a white to bluish clay that matches the characteristics of the most expensive clay used by the Chinese for their enduring porcelain treasures.

Pellos tried to look for funding, a mere P30,000, to jumpstart a workshop and a modest kiln.

The opportunity was on his side. The NCCA heard of his project and asked him to submit a proposal, which eventually earned a grant of over P100,000 to revive the town's traditional pottery.

The nearby community of Bila in Bauko, Mt. Province, still had women doing traditional pottery so he brought them to Kibungan for a workshop.

But knowing that pottery had died in Kibungan because it was labor-intensive and with little returns, Pellos taught modern techniques using the potter's wheel and brick kilns.

The community's products were first exhibited as part of a graduation program from the NCCA grant. Pellos said the NCCA officials were impressed by their serving bowls, teapots, cups and saucers.

All the items would have been bought, if not for the fact that the residents wanted to keep their work.

Today, a core group of six potters and the occasional participation of local children and other villagers, compose the "Ulnos di Linang" (clay organization). They display their wares in exhibits and festivals like the yearly Adivay in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The town's "School of Living Traditions" is on its third year and has offered rice wine and "bubud" (native yeast) making, and production of indigenous instruments to locals. The old women serve as teachers in the school.

Message for environment

Pellos also used his pottery to deliver an environmental message in a recent exhibit staged by the Cordillera Green Network (CGN), a nongovernment organization focused on the protection, preservation and promotion of the Cordillera environment.

The exhibit, which featured 157 clay monkey masks made by Kibungan residents, wanted to send a message about the rate of deforestation in the region.

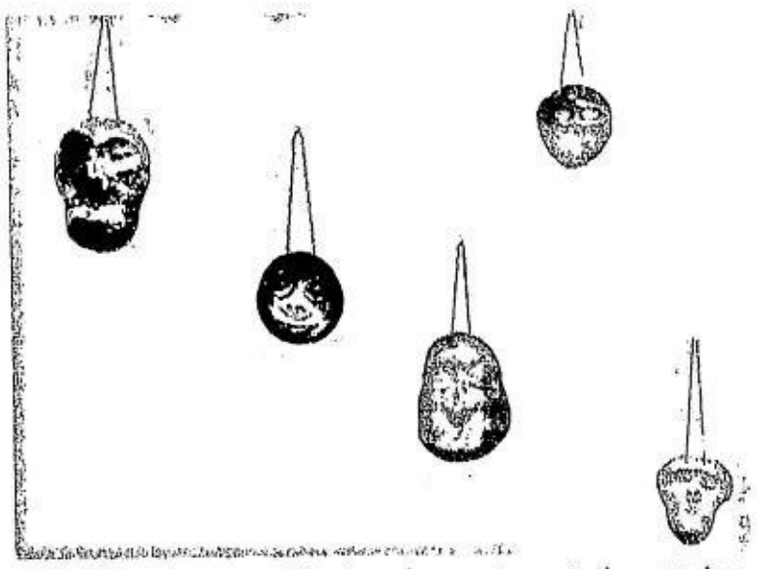
Mariko Sorimachi Banasan, CGN director, said the activity, with a special focus on clay work, hoped to give the young a view of nature through the arts.

The masks were exhibited at the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas) in Baguio City last month to celebrate Environment Month. The show was called "Where have all the monkeys gone."

Banasan said big monkeys or apes used to roam the forests of Kibungan. In fact, Kibungan derives its name from the word "kibeng," which means big monkey or ape.

These creatures, however, have long disappeared from their forests. Banasan quoted old folks as saying that they last saw these creatures roaming the forests in 1965.

"Their extinction was an indication of how we have failed to protect and preserve their forest habitats," she said.



KIBUNGAN children used clay from the town to create these monkey masks. VINCENT CABREZA

Maraming salamat po.

Nagpasiya na po ang bayan.
Napakarami pong bumoto.
Pero di po sapat
para muli ko kayong
mapaglingkuran.

Ganon pa man ay taos-puso
pa rin ang aking pasasalamat.

Salamat sa lahat nang bumoto.
Nakakataba po ng puso
ang inyong matibay na paniniwala.

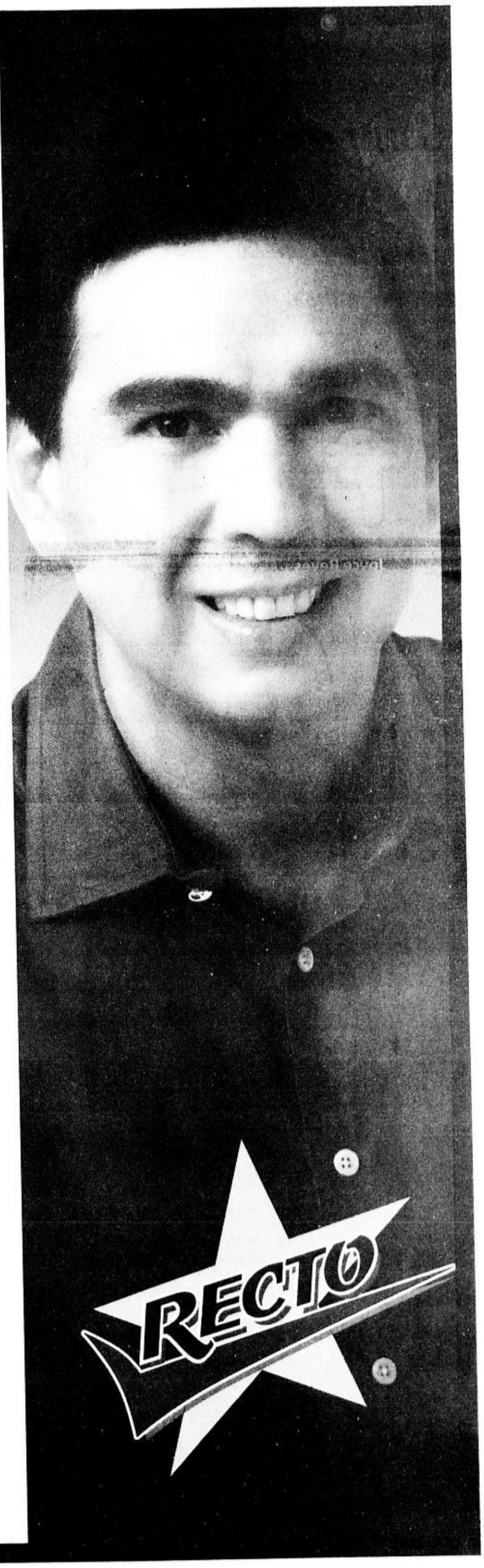
Saludo ako sa lahat ng mga magigiting
na naglaan ng panahon at lakas –
at nagbuwis ng buhay
para bantayan ang balota.

At sa mga hindi bumoto, salamat din po.
Malaki ang aking pag-asang balang-araw
ay magtatagpo din tayo at makukuha ko
ang inyong pagtitiwala.

Ang nakaraaang halalan ay patunay lamang
na buhay at matibay ang ating demokrasiya.

Hanggang sa muli, maraming,
maraming salamat po.

Ralph G. Recto



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NPA lists projects from rebel taxes

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—COMMUNIST REBELS OPERATING in the Cordillera have collected at least P500,000 worth of cash and goods through revolutionary taxes in the region during the election period.

But Simon Naogsan, Cordillera People's Democratic Front spokesperson, said the money would go to projects that they would implement in rural areas, like the construction of footpaths, irrigation systems, agrarian reform assistance and other training programs.

CPDF is the regional arm of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

"Some of the taxes came in kind like communication gadgets such as cellular phones, cell cards and computers, and bullets and other combat gadgets. The value of these goods would reach between P200,000 and P300,000. Our cash [collection] is P100,000 or more," Naogsan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said candidates paid New People's Army units an "access tax" so they could campaign in areas where communist rebels are known to operate.

Naogsan said some gubernatorial and congressional candidates paid the access tax. He wouldn't identify who these candidates were.

He said a portion of the fees went to the units' food and military training expenses. Funds were also allotted to buy medicines for the NPA's medical missions in upland villages.

He said some residents and local officials approve of their group's training programs on agrarian reform issues.

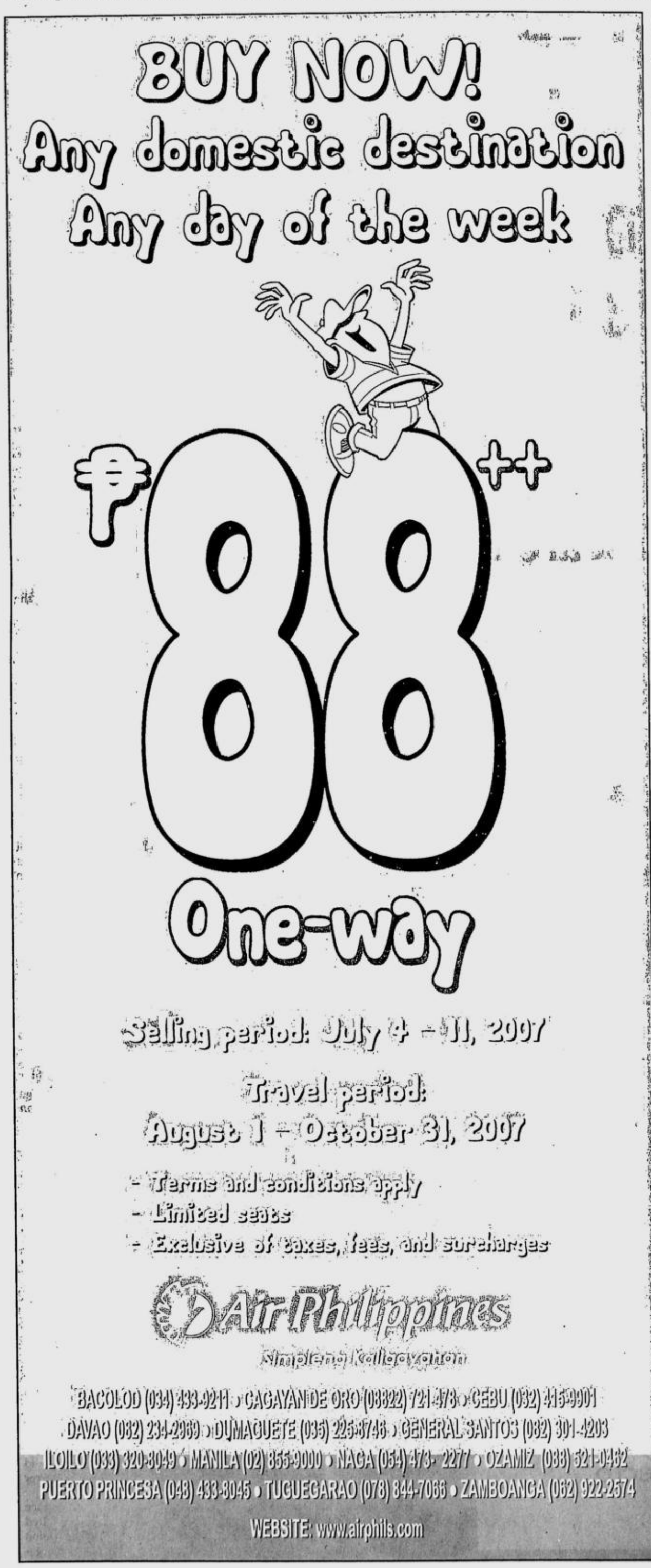
Good intentions

"These people undergo training conducted by our members who are knowledgeable about agriculture because they know that the training would benefit the common good. We conduct the training discreetly because no matter how good our intentions are, we will be arrested because we are perceived as enemies [of the state]," Naogsan said.

He said the amount that their group collected this year was smaller compared to those in previous elections.

"Suffice it to say that the candidates who paid the tax were not really that rich because they are not landlords. We can classify them to those belonging to the upper middle class," he said.

He said they also did not force candidates to pay an amount that they could not afford.



Gov Vi to stop resort in Taal

BATANGAS CITY—Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto added her voice to those demanding a stop to a resort project in Taal Volcano, saying "I won't let (the volcano) be desecrated."

"We have to preserve the volcano as a national sanctuary," said the governor on her first day in office.

The resort-spa was being developed by the Korean firm Jung Ang Interventure Inc. at the volcano's crater.

Santos held a dialogue with groups protesting the project.

Resting Dimayuga, head of the Samahan ng Mamamayan sa Lawa ng Taal (Samataal), said his group believes Santos would help convince the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel the project's environment compliance certificate.

Dimayuga said his group would sue the DENR, the Talisay municipal government and other agencies involved in the project.

Santos said she believed the permits secured by the spa project were questionable.

But she asked the protesters to remain calm.

"We won't be fighting the investors and maybe help them look for an alternative place elsewhere," she said.

The governor said she would call a meeting with the DENR and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to discuss the project, which would sit on six hectares of the volcano island.

Santos said in her speech marking her first day in office as governor that she would focus on health, environment, agriculture, roads, tourism and security programs.

She said she would promote tourism but not at the expense of the environment. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Canada groups urge GMA: Probe attacks on striking workers

CALAMBA CITY—SEVERAL Canadian labor unions and a Church-based organization joined the call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an inquiry into attacks on the picket line of workers of a Korean firm inside an industrial zone in Rosario, Cavite last month, the INQUIRER learned Tuesday.

The appeal came after the US-based International Labor Rights Fund (ILRF) urged the US government to rescind the tax incentives given to Philippine exports for the failure of the Arroyo administration to stop assaults directed at labor rights activists and union members in the country.

In separate letters, officers of the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW), Kairos-Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (CEJI), human rights group Maquila Solidarity Network (MSN) and the United Steelworkers (USW) raised concern over the safety of members of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa Chong Won (NMCW) who were threatened by gunmen at their picket line.

"We are particularly concerned about reports that the armed men threatened to murder the workers if they do not abandon their strike. In the current climate of extrajudicial killings, such threats must be taken very seriously," said Carol Phillips, assistant to the president of CAW.

"We are extremely concerned about the safety of the Chong Won strikers, as well as the safety of the labor and human rights advocates providing strikers with support," said Dale Hildebrand, team leader of Kairos-CEJI, in his letter last June 26.

In the evening of June 10, unidentified men with knives and crowbars rounded up the picket line of NMCW workers in front of the Chong Won Fashion Garments factory inside the Cavite Export Processing Zone.

A few hours later, about 20 gunmen again swooped down on the workers' tents and ordered the strikers at gunpoint to end their protest.

At least two leaders of NMCW were hurt in the assault.

After the attacks, police set up checkpoints around the area, raising suspicion that the assailants were also members of the security force hired by the Chong Won management.

The workers also said they were spurned by police when they tried to ask for help. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

8 held for sale of fake electric devices in Cebu

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—OPERATIVES OF the regional police intelligence division arrested late Monday four Chinese nationals and four Filipinos allegedly involved in selling fake and smuggled electrical products.

Supt. Julius Caesar Gomez, regional intelligence division deputy chief, said they seized during simultaneous raids hundreds of counterfeit electrical switches, plates, outlets and circuit breakers worth about P3 million from at least three hardware companies.

The raid was conducted based on a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Reynaldo Ros against Yn Trading, Fair Deal Hardware and Dionisio Hardware, all in Cebu City, Gomez said.

The police filed at the Cebu City Prosecutor's Office charges of violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines against Chinese nationals Edison Tan, Rose Tao, Linda Tan and Alex Co.

Police also sued Filipinos Nick Limkunhoy, Jerel Mae Amor, Evelyn Largo and Dennis Ong.

The Tan couple owns the Yn Trading while Limkunhoy owns Fair Deal. The rest are caretakers of the raided stores.

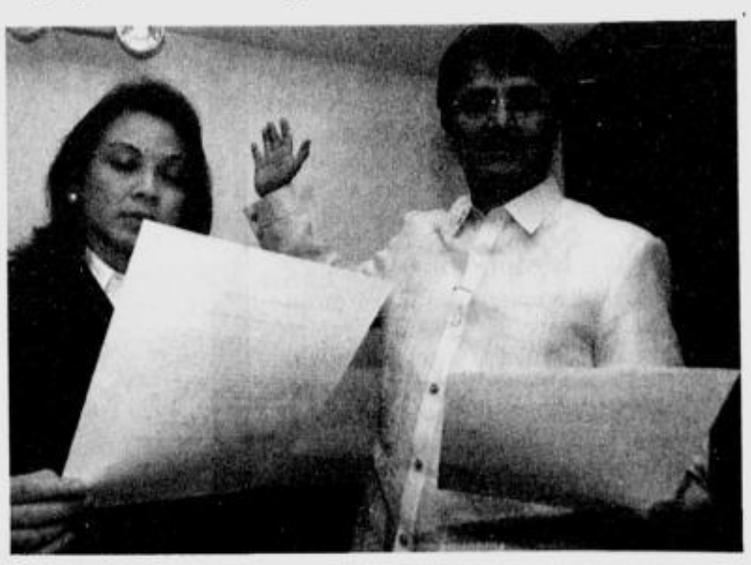
Limkunhoy, 66, said he did not know the products were counterfeit when he bought these from suppliers in Manila.

He said he bought the items because these were cheap.

Gomez said police were alarmed by the proliferation of fake and substandard electrical devices as these have been the common causes of fire.

The National Panasonic, Kopez Manufacturing Inc. and Koten Enterprises Co. applied for a search warrant.

National Panasonic legal counsel Bayani Chua said the company has incurred millions of pesos in losses in the past four years due to counterfeiting.



NEOPHYTE Aurelio Gonzales, who was elected to his first term of office as representative of the third district of Pampanga, takes his oath before Sen. Loren Legarda. RYAN LIM

Lintang Bedol free again

From page A1

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol said Bedol's case only "stemmed from disobeying" the Comelec and that he could be cited in contempt or slapped with an administrative case for negligence.

"But it's still premature to accuse him of election fraud because there's no evidence yet to prove it. But let's wait and see. As of now, I haven't seen any evidence to warrant more charges against him," said Apostol.

FINALLY UNDER ARREST, Bedol arrives from Davao City late Monday night and his police guards whisk him off to a hotel to spend the night before his appearance at the Comelec. JESS YUSON

Not guilty

"We are pleading not guilty, your honors," lawyer Andrei Bon Tagum told the Commission on Elections en banc yesterday, responding to the contempt charges filed against Bedol.

Bedol wore a white bandage over his right eye as he stood silently behind his lawyer and the much anticipated face-off between him and the election commissioners fizzled.

Reporters could not get even a word from Bedol.

Burly security men surrounded him on his way out of the Comelec offices and kept the media away before delivering him to a 3-star hotel in Malate, where he is staying in a $50 (about P2,250), air-conditioned room equipped with cable television and paid for by the Comelec.

The Comelec had summoned Bedol all the way from Maguindanao to explain how the certificates of canvass (CoCs), or vote tallies, in his custody were stolen and why he repeatedly ignored the summons of the commission.

Not one word

But not one word was heard from Bedol on what was supposed to have been a day of reckoning for him.

Just the other day, Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrrer and Rene Sarmiento were telling reporters that Bedol "should not treat the Comelec very lightly."

Ferrer even hinted that the Comelec would put Bedol in his place for challenging the poll body to file charges against him.

Order questioned

Yesterday, Tagum painted a picture of Bedol as a beleaguered man who, despite doctors' orders, still attended the Comelec hearing.

"My client was supposed to have bed rest ... as he underwent surgery on account of a cataract in his eye," Tagum said. "It was not an ordinary cataract. It wasn't on the surface of his eye but underneath his eye. And my client is complaining of drowsiness at this very moment."

Tagum tried to get his client off the hook by even questioning the Comelec's functions when the body ordered Bedol's arrest.

"We would like to question and clarify the basis for the issuance of the bench warrant," Tagum said.

Ferrer explained the nature of the contempt charges and said that Bedol was actually being considered a "witness to explain why he should not be held in contempt."

Only a witness

"The contempt charge is very clear ... The arrest warrant was issued not as a penalty of not attending (hearings), but compelling a witness to attend," Ferrer said.

Ferrer added: "We consider the respondent (to be) a witness to explain to the commission why he should not be held in contempt."

Ferrer asked Tagum who would guarantee Bedol's appearance at the next hearing on July 17.

After some haggling, Tagum finally agreed to make the guarantee.

Threats against Bedol

"He's a free man. He's free," Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police commander of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), told reporters after the hearing.

"He can go anywhere he wants because our arrest order was only to guarantee his presence at the Comelec today."

Goltiao said that Bedol could go back to Mindanao today because he was no longer under the custody of the PNP.

Goltiao said the PNP also provided security to Bedol after the police were able to "validate the threats to his life."

Goltiao did not give details on the alleged threats but said it was related to Bedol's job as an election official.

"Generally, it is connected to his work. Even before he was saying that he has been receiving threats. Now, based on his own estimates, the threats to his life are worse," Goltiao said in Filipino.

Fireworks outside

Asked from whom the threats came from, Goltiao said there could be people whom Bedol failed to "satisfy" as an election official. Bedol could have also stepped on people's toes, he added.

"Well, all those who are angry at him. We cannot specify ... We cannot identify personalities," Goltiao said.

The Comelec will pay for the overnight hotel expenses incurred by Bedol for his appearance at the hearing, according to Comelec Executive Director Jose Pio Joson.

"He's still an employee of the Comelec," Joson said, adding the money would come from the budget released by the Comelec to the PNP.

Fireworks actually did occur—not during the hearings but between the Comelec's security forces and the media.

The security staff drew the ire of reporters when they were barred from entering the Comelec building allegedly upon orders of the Comelec's law department.

More than 20 reporters and photographers were forced to wait outside the Palacio del Gobernador building for at least two hours.

According to security chief Diosdado Sapo, the directive to keep the media from covering the hearing came from the Comelec law department director, Alioden Dalaig.

But Dalaig denied having issued such order, which also came as a surprise to Ferrer and Sarmiento.

When asked to explain why reporters were being barred from the hearing, Sapo claimed that someone might go in disguised as a reporter and kill Bedol.

Ironically, nonmedia visitors were readily welcomed into the building.

Before being flown to Manila, Bedol had his right eye operated on in Davao City.

Dr. Perfecto Domingo Jr., an ophthalmologist, said he did the procedure on Monday morning.

He said after the operation, he went out of town and learned of Bedol's arrest only on Monday night on television. *With reports from Tina G. Santos and Michael Ubac in Manila; and Dennis Jay C. Santos, Charlie C. Señase and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

'Dalawa' po or 'dalawampu'?

By Alcuin Papa

IT IS MEANT TO BE A WORD of respect. Yet some people seem to think they can also use it to wiggle out of trouble.

Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol is now claiming he was misquoted by the media on the number of guns he owns.

Philippine National Police Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao yesterday said he talked with Bedol about the guns "and he said he was misquoted."

"He said he was asked how many guns he had and he said '*dalawa po*' (two, sir) and it became '*dalawampu*' (twenty). I had a good laugh about that," Goltiao said.

People from the region found Bedol's "dalawa po" remark curious because they said Mindanaoans do not have "po" in their vocabulary to signify respect.

Bedol became a possible target of an investigation after the INQUIRER last week published an interview with him in which he said that he owned more than 20 guns.

PDI stands by story

INQUIRER reporter Nikko Dizon stood by her story, saying there was no way Bedol—who had a .45-cal. pistol in a holster on his belt during the interview—could have been misquoted.

"I asked him if he had any other guns and he said yes. He said he had an Uzi which he gave to his mother and 20 baby Armalites. He said '*Ganun talaga dito*' (That's how it is here)," Dizon said.

Dizon, who interviewed Bedol in Cotabato City, said she told him that 20-plus guns were too many for one person to own.

"He said 'that's not so much if you compare it to other people, who own thousands. *Di marami yun* (that's not a lot).' So how can he say he has two guns when he already said that 20 was not a lot of guns?"

The next day, Dizon again interviewed Bedol. This time he said that the 20 or more guns that he said he owned had already been "disposed" of.

GMA 7 News reporter Jiggy Manicad, who interviewed Bedol together with Dizon, said he was also standing by his story.

It's on camera

"I have everything on camera. If he (Bedol) wants he can preview our tapes," Manicad told the INQUIRER.

He said that throughout the interview, Bedol never used "*po*."

"It's weird that when it came to the guns, he would say '*po*,'" Manicad said.

PNP Directorate for Operations Director Wilfredo Garcia said the police would pursue the investigation of Bedol's initial claim of owning 20 guns.

MILF troops pull out from search for Father Bossi

From page A1

Hundreds of Moro rebels were stationed in the area for more than two weeks, helping Army troops in efforts to free Bossi, who was abducted in Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino said it was the MILF that asked the Adhoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag) of the government and the MILF at a meeting in Iligan City on Saturday to allow its forces to leave the area because they had to go back home to attend to their families and livelihood.

Since his abduction last month, Bossi has not been seen or heard from by the government or its emissaries.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said on Monday that there were strong indications that Bossi was alive.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP information chief, said Esperon's information came from "A-1" sources or sources with much "credibility."

Top Italian envoy

The failure of the government or the MILF to get Bossi freed prompted the Italian government to send a top envoy to the Philippines.

Margherita Boniver, a veteran of several humanitarian missions, will travel to the Philippines "to work for a positive conclusion" to the abduction.

But Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay said Boniver could not negotiate for the release of Bossi.

"We have rules, and I don't think she will be allowed to negotiate if what you mean is she will be at the forefront trying to contact the (kidnappers)," said Cabuay, a former chief of the military intelligence service.

Accord expired

The pullout of MILF forces came after an accord allowing them to operate with government troops expired, the rebel group said yesterday.

The 2004 accord, which allows the rebels to work with troops in apprehending outlaws, was one of the results of years-long peace talks brokered by Malaysia to settle the bloody fight for Muslim self-rule in Mindanao.

Both sides had hoped to renew the accord at the end of last month, but the government's chief negotiator resigned and his replacement has not yet had a chance to meet formally with the MILF.

About 300 of the rebels have gone back to their camps while the rest have returned to their communities near the Lanao boundary, according to the MILFs 'Mohammad Nasif, who helped oversee the rebel search.

"It is now the sole responsibility of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to do the job alone," Nasif said in a statement.

MILF commanders had deployed their forces to search for Bossi shortly after the abduction, focusing on the rugged Lanao boundary, where the priest was reportedly seen by Muslim villagers sympathetic to the rebels. Government troops later joined in the search.

Dolorfino, who is helping monitor search efforts, said both sides were eager to resume their cooperation. "It's just a matter of renewing their legal mandate, there is continuing goodwill," he said.

Dolorfino, AFP Metro Manila commander, heads Ahjag's government panel.

Kidnapping for ransom

Nasif said Bossi was being held by gunmen seeking a ransom, citing MILF intelligence.

"The abductors will take care of him because they want money out of this," Nasif told The Associated Press. "This has nothing to do with religion, it's a kidnapping for ransom."

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the withdrawal was a major setback to efforts to locate Bossi.

But military officials were quick to say that the pullout would have a "minimal" impact on the search and rescue operations because the two forces would still continue to help each other in gathering intelligence on the whereabouts of Bossi and his kidnappers.

"They (MILF) can be mobilized easily when needed," Bacarro said.

Asked whether the pullout meant that Bossi might not be in Lanao del Sur, Bacarro merely said the military would continue to focus its search and rescue operations on both Zamboanga Sibugay and Lanao del Sur.

"It's just like a boxer. If you don't see the target, you wouldn't know whether your punch will land on him. So focus on the target after which you can throw a punch," he said.

Man of dialogue

Dolorfino said the emissaries who last week left for Lanao had yet to establish contact with Bossi's kidnappers.

The brother of the kidnapped Italian priest called on the government to avoid the use of force in its effort to locate and rescue the victim.

Marcello Bossi, in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, said government should talk to the kidnappers until his brother was freed.

"We want to solve this (crisis) through dialogue. My brother Giancarlo is a man of dialogue. He is actively involved in dialogue whether they are Christians or Muslims, and Giancarlo is friend to all faith," Marcello said.

Be prudent

The Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime), the religious congregation to which Bossi belongs, also called on the military to be more prudent in giving information as unconfirmed reports might give false hopes.

"Let us be cautious in issuing statements. For as long as there is no proof of life, no concrete positive developments, let us keep the information to ourselves," said Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo, PIME regional superior.

Sandalo issued the statement following reports that Esperon had claimed that contact had been established with Bossi.

Esperon claimed proof of life had been obtained with Bossi talking to somebody very reliable and relayed the message to government authorities.

But Sandalo said not a single missionary of the PIME community had received word from the kidnap victim or from his captors, "not even a military official like General Esperon."

Frustrated

Marcello called the INQUIRER on Monday night to check if contact had indeed been made with the kidnapped priest.

Marcello, speaking through an interpreter, said he was worried for his brother and expressed frustration upon learning that there was false report.

"No one has contacted us, absolutely no one," he said.

Fr. Peter Geremia, also of PIME, cautioned the government against the possible exploitation of the implementation of the Human Security Act in case Bossi remained in captivity.

Geremia said the missionaries doubted the sincerity of the government's representatives in working out the release of Bossi.

Diversionary tactic

"We feel that this is part of a drama to justify the antiterror bill or to divert public attention from other issues. I also doubt the sincerity of the implementers of the antiterror bill," Geremia told the INQUIRER through an SMS message. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and AP*

Palace to defer antiterror law for lack of rules

From page A1

has yet to meet is publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Cabuay told reporters that the antiterrorism council, which is tasked with supervising the implementation of the law, including the formulation of the IRR, had yet to convene.

He said the implementation of RA 9372 would depend on how fast the council could carry out the directives provided by law.

"I'm sure the council doesn't want to hastily meet some of the law's requirements so that it will be declared unimplementable later on," he said.

Punishable by 40 years

Under the HSA, the crime of terrorism includes piracy in general or mutiny in high seas; rebellion or insurrection; coup d'etat, including acts committed by private persons; murder; kidnapping and serious illegal detention, and crimes involving destruction, such as arson.

The crime of terrorism is punishable by 40 years of imprisonment without the benefit of parole.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed RA 9372 on March 6 but its implementation was deferred until after the May 14 elections to allay the fears of human rights groups and the political opposition that it would be used to harass leftists and Ms Arroyo's critics.

To help ensure that law enforcers would not abuse their authority, lawmakers put in provisions, like having to pay acquitted suspects P500,000 in damages "for every day that he or she has been detained or deprived of liberty or arrested without a warrant."

Defense officials want this provision amended.

Ms Arroyo, a close US ally in the war on global terror, called the law a vital cornerstone in the country's fight against global terrorism.

The President said the new antiterror law would spell the defeat of terror groups like the Abu Sayyaf (ASG) and its foreign affiliate, the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

But the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan claims that the law could be easily abused because of its broad definition of terrorism. "Who will say that a crime created fear among the populace?" asked Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

RA 9372 stipulates that before the law can be implemented, there must be thorough public discussions of its ramifications, according to Cabuay.

"This must be presented to the people, discussed on radio and television. The law even dictated where it would be discussed—in Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro," among other places, the NSC official said.

Cabuay defended the law amid accusations that it would be used against all enemies of the state, including leftist and rightist rebels.

"The Human Security Act is a good law. We're happy about it, although it has a lot of safeguards. These are aimed at protecting the people," he said.

"As early as now, we would like to tell our people that they should not fear this law. Ordinary citizens should welcome, be happy with the passing of the law," he said.

Toned down

But Cabuay said the law was "very much toned down."

He noted that security laws in other countries gave the police more days to detain suspected terrorists without a warrant.

"Here, it's very, very short—it's only three days. But still, if you hold somebody without a warrant, on the first day he has to be presented to the nearest judge where this person was arrested. So we can say that this law will never be used to abuse anybody," Cabuay said.

Terror tag

He said the summit would not lay the groundwork for the tagging of the JI, ASG, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as terror organizations.

"We won't discuss that yet. The law is not yet implemented. It will take a while," he said.

In keeping with the law's requirement of setting up an antiterrorism council to be composed of departments and agencies involved in national security, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has conducted initial meetings, according to Cabuay.

Once convened, the council has the "powers of proscription," Cabuay said.

Antiterror council

"So depending upon the discussions of the antiterorrism council, it may proscribe [ban] the CPP-NPA [for being] a terrorist group," he said. "As of now, whether it will do it or not, we leave it to the council."

Cabuay said the council would not be influenced by the terror list of other nations.

The CPP abandoned the peace process in 2004 after the United States and the European Union put it on the list of terrorist organizations.

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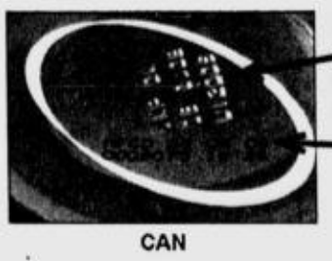

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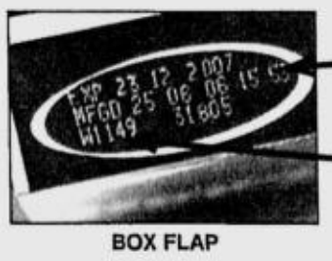

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W1129	06-1129	05/22/06
W1130	06-1130	05/23/06
W1131	06-1131	05/23/06
W1132	06-1132	05/24/06
W1133	06-1133	05/24/06
W1134	06-1134	05/25/06
W1135	06-1135	05/26/06
W1136	06-1136	05/26/06
W1138	**06-1138**	**06/21/06**
W1139	06-1139	06/21/06
W1141	06-1141	06/22/06
W1142	06-1142	06/22/06
W1143	06-1143	06/23/06
W1144	06-1144	06/23/06
W1146A	06-1146	06/24/06
W1147	06-1147	06/24/06
W1148	06-1148	06/24/06
W1149	06-1149	06/25/06
W1150	06-1150	06/25/06
W1151	06-1151	06/26/06
W1155	06-1155	06/27/06
W1158	06-1158	06/28/06
W1159	06-1159	06/29/06
W1160	06-1160	06/30/06
W1162	06-1162	06/30/06
W1163	06-1163	07/22/06
W1164	06-1164	07/22/06
W1166	06-1166	07/22/06
W1167	06-1167	07/23/06
W1168	06-1168	07/23/06
W1169	06-1169	07/23/06
W1170A	06-1170	07/24/06
W1171	06-1171	07/23/06
W1172	06-1172	07/24/06
W1173	06-1173	07/24/06
W1174	06-1174	07/24/06
W1175	06-1175	07/24/06
W1176	06-1176	07/25/06
W1177	06-1177	07/25/06
W1178	06-1178	07/26/06
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W0055	06-0055	04/25/06
W0064	06-0064	04/30/06
W0065	06-0065	05/01/06
W0078	06-0078	05/22/06
W0081	06-0081	05/23/06
W0082	06-0082	05/24/06
W0083	06-0083	05/25/06
W0084	06-0084	05/25/06
W0085	06-0085	05/25/06
W0102	06-0102	06/16/06
W0103	**06-0103**	**06/17/06**
W0104	06-0104	06/17/06
W0105	06-0105	06/17/06
W0106	06-0106	06/19/06
W0107	06-0107	06/19/06
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W0113	06-0113	06/23/06
W0114	06-0114	06/23/06
W0115	06-0115	06/24/06
W0116	06-0116	06/25/06
W0117	06-0117	06/25/06
W0118	06-0118	06/25/06
W0120	06-0120	07/14/06
W0121	06-0121	07/15/06
W0122	06-0122	07/15/06
W0123	06-0123	07/15/06
W0124	06-0124	07/16/06
W0125	06-0125	07/16/06
W0126	06-0126	07/17/06
W0127	06-0127	07/17/06
W0128	06-0128	07/18/06
W0130	**06-0130**	**07/19/06**
W0131	06-0131	07/19/06
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W4138	06-4138	06/09/06
W4140	06-4140	06/11/06
W4143	06-4143	06/12/06
W4145	06-4145	06/13/06
W4151	06-4151	06/27/06
W4156	06-4156	06/29/06
W4160	06-4160	07/01/06
W4161	06-4161	07/01/06
W4162	06-4162	07/02/06
W4166	06-4166	07/09/06
W4167	06-4167	07/04/06
W4169	06-4169	07/05/06
W4170	06-4170	07/05/06
W4171	06-4171	07/06/06
W4172A	06-4172	07/07/06
W4174	06-4174	07/09/06
W4176	06-4176	07/10/06
W4177	06-4177	07/10/06
W4178	06-4178	07/11/06
W4179	06-4179	07/11/06
W4180	06-4180	07/12/06
W4181	06-4181	07/12/06
W4182	06-4182	07/13/06
W4183	06-4183	07/13/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12013	06-12013	06/09/06
W12014	06-12014	06/10/06
W12015	06-12015	06/10/06
W12016	06-12016	06/10/06
W12017	06-12017	06/11/06
W12018	06-12018	06/11/06
W12019	06-12019	06/11/06
W12020	06-12020	06/12/06
W12021	06-12021	06/13/06
W12022	06-12022	07/16/06

PROGRESS™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W12023	06-12023	07/17/06
W12024	06-12024	07/17/06
W12026	06-12026	07/18/06
W12027	06-12027	07/19/06
W12028	06-12028	07/19/06
W12029	06-12029	07/19/06
W12030	06-12030	07/19/06
W12031	**06-12031**	**07/20/06**
W12032	06-12032	07/21/06

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W8021	06-8021	07/26/06
W8023	06-8023	07/26/06

PROMIL™ GOLD

Lot No. (Consumer Readable Code)	Parent Lot No. (MO No.)	Manufacturing Date (MM/DD/YY)
W2012	06-2012	07/12/06
W2013	06-2013	07/13/06
W2014	06-2014	07/14/06
W2015	06-2015	07/14/06
W2016	06-2016	07/14/06
W2017	06-2017	07/14/06
W2018	06-2018	07/14/06
W2019	**06-2019**	**07/15/06**
W2020	**06-2020**	**07/15/06**
W2021	06-2021	07/16/06
W2022	06-2022	07/16/06
W2025	06-2025	07/31/06

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W13034	06-13034	03/08/06
W13087	06-13087	06/14/06
W13088	06-13088	06/14/06
W13089	06-13089	06/15/06
W13090	06-13090	06/15/06
W13090A	06-13090	06/16/06
W13091	06-13091	06/16/06
W13092	06-13092	06/16/06
W13093	06-13093	06/16/06
W13094	06-13094	06/17/06
W13095	06-13095	06/17/06
W13096	06-13096	06/18/06
W13097	06-13097	06/18/06
W13099	06-13099	07/01/06
W13102	06-13102	07/02/06
W13104	06-13104	07/03/06
W13105	06-13105	07/04/06
W13107A	06-13107	07/05/06
W13108	06-13108	07/05/06
W13109	06-13109	07/05/06
W13110	06-13110	07/06/06
W13111	06-13111	07/06/06
W13112	06-13112	07/06/06
W13113	06-13113	07/07/06
W13114	06-13114	07/07/06
W13115	06-13115	07/08/06
W13116	06-13116	07/08/06
W13117	06-13117	07/09/06
W13118	**06-13118**	**07/09/06**
W13119	06-13119	07/10/06
W13120	06-13120	07/11/06
W13121	06-13121	07/13/06

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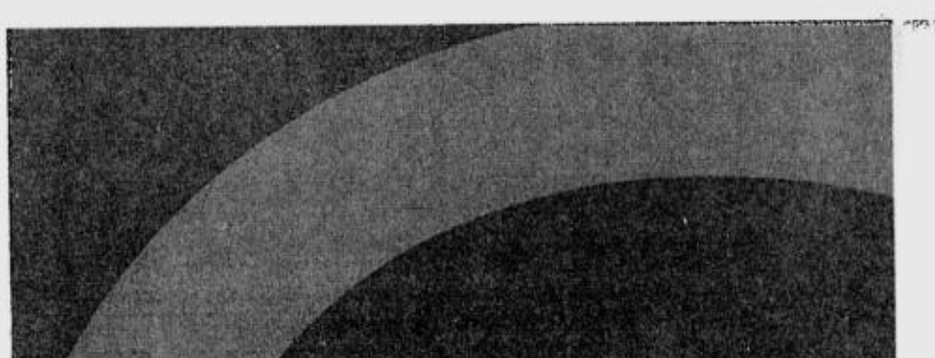

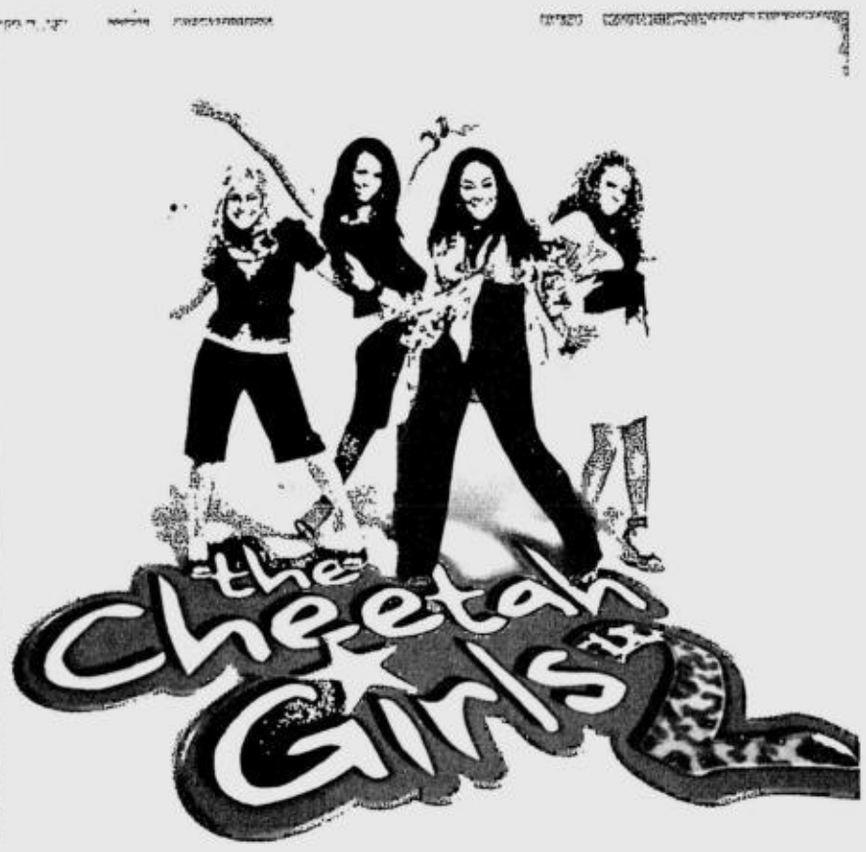

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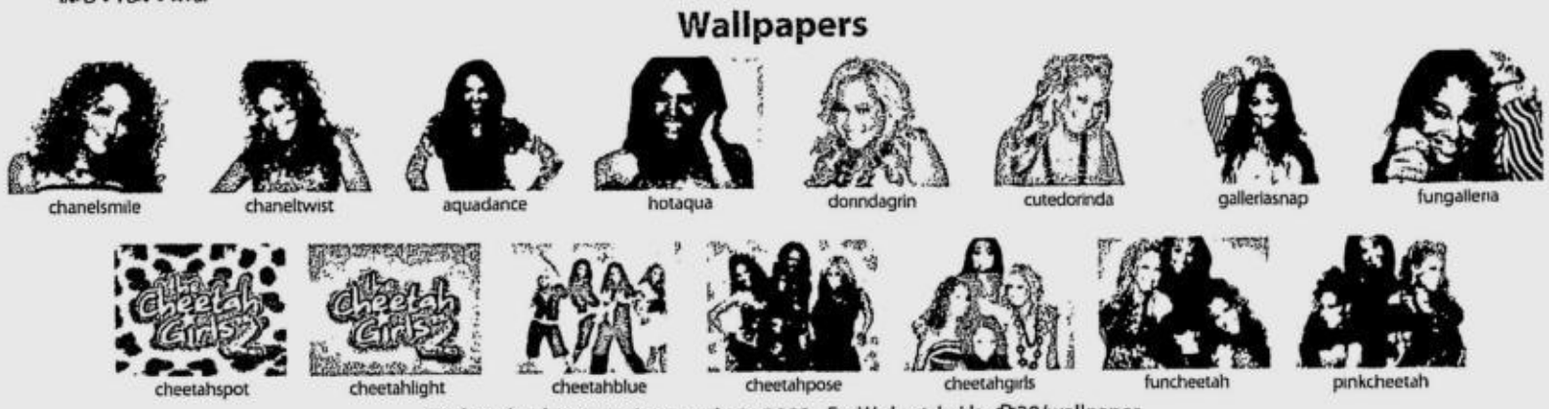

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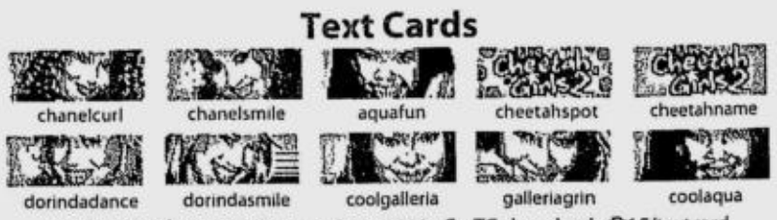

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Late SPORTS

JONES CUP

RP five yields to lucky Lebanon

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—LEBANON BROUGHT THE SAN Miguel-Pilipinas national five back to earth Tuesday with a come-from-behind 65-62 decision to grab a piece of the lead in the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

Rony Fahed beat the final buzzer with an off-balanced three-point shot off the glass as the Lebanese, who trailed all the way and by as many as 11 at 33-22, clinched their second straight win and caught South Korea on top.

The Koreans earlier salvaged a 71-65 decision of Jordan, a team which the Filipinos are eagerly awaiting to get their hands on, along with Iran, as both teams are in their bracket in the coming Asia Fiba championship.

The loss dropped the Filipinos to 1-1, in a tie with Jordan, Kazakhstan and the defending champion United States squad which the RP five conquered Monday, 72-65.

The Americans bounced back with a 106-68 rout of Qatar while the Kazakhs clobbered Japan, 96-61.

Although struggling with their shots, the Filipinos clung to a six-point lead at 62-56 before the bigger Lebanese, who are playing in the PBA Manila Invitational on July 12 to 15, mounted a nine-point rally down the stretch.

A split free throw by Bassem Balaa tied the count at 62-62 with 17.8 seconds left, giving the Filipinos enough time to pull it out.

But Dondon Hontiveros' jumper rattled in and out, and Lebanon went for what turned out to be the game's biggest basket courtesy of Fahed at the buzzer.

So inconsistent was the RP offensive that only Hontiveros and Gabe Norwood finished in double figures with 10 each. The Filipinos also failed to stop Fadi El Khatib, who got away with 26 points.

Mark Caguioa, who shone against the Americans, finished with seven points along with James Yap.

The Filipinos return to action Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. against lightweight Japan.

The scores:

LEBANON 65—Khatib 26, Vogel 11, Fahed 8, Balaa 6, Mahmoud 5, Nour 3, Tawbe 3, Turk 3, Samaha 0.

RP 62—Hontiveros 10, Norwood 10, Caguioa 7, Taulava 7, Yap 7, Pennisi 6, Alapag 5, Raymundo 4, Helterbrand 4, De Ocampo 2, Williams 0, Menk 0.

Quarters: 14-18, 31-37, 44-52, 65-62

Phone Pals, Aces brace for 'war'

GAMES FRIDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

HE MAY BE ONE KEY PLAYER SHORT AND filled with awe of his foes, but still, Tim Cone feels that not winning the PBA Fiesta Cup will be a complete failure for his Alaska squad.

Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren meanwhile, despite a seeming edge in manpower, preferred playing it safe.

The two coaches aired their views in the season ending, best-of-seven series that starts on Friday with both only agreeing on only one thing—that this is war.

"We expect it to be a total war," said Cone, who will be shooting for a title for the first time in five years. "We are not happy just being here, we are going to win this because anything short of that is a failure."

"It will be a difficult series because both teams have strong characters," Cone, winner of 11 titles including 10 in the 1990s, added. "But when I look at them (Phone Pals), all I see are strengths."

Alaska will be coming into the title playoffs without top local Jeffrey Cariaso who is out for at least the first two games of the series because of a knee injury.

The Aces have not contended for a title since 2002, when they lost to Purefoods in six games of the Governors Cup Finals.

A plus METRO

Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, July 4, is the 156th birth anniversary of Laureano Guevarra, considered the father of the Philippine shoe industry. Better known as "Kapitan Moy," he served as Marikina mayor in the 19th century.

The Marikina shoe industry started in the 1880s, when the well-off Guevarra bought a pair of imported shoes during a trip to Manila. He told his workers to examine and duplicate the shoes, thinking shoe making could be a source of livelihood for Marikina residents, apart from fishing and farming. Guerrero then made sure other Marikeños were taught the skill.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

3 escapees from Caloocan police station cell give up

Cops closing in on four other detainees

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THREE OF THE SEVEN PRISONERS WHO ESCAPED from the cell of a police sub-station in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City at dawn Monday gave up to authorities yesterday.

Supt. William Macavinta, city police chief, said two of the escapees, Bryan Morales and Jonathan Bacani (not Bencan as earlier reported), yielded to Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri at his office in City Hall.

The third prisoner, Porfirio Reyes Jr., went to the city police headquarters on Samson Road and surrendered to Macavinta. He was accompanied by his mother, Remedios.

"The mother told us she would rather visit her son in jail than at the cemetery," the police official said, adding that Remedios feared for her son's life after his escape.

Reyes, who was charged with theft and illegal possession of bladed weapon, was fetched by police operatives from the house of a former Philippine Constabulary officer who facilitated the surrender.

The prisoner claimed that the other escapees threatened to harm him if he did not join them in breaking out of prison. He took refuge at the military man's house on Ilang-ilang St., Camarin, Caloocan City upon the advice of his mother "for his own safety."

According to Chief Insp. Cresencio Galvez, head of the city's intelligence division, Morales and Bacani had been under surveillance since Monday night after they received information that the two were seen in Morales' house on San Francisco St., Phase 8, Barangay 178.

Morales' father later convinced the two to give themselves up to the mayor.

The prisoners escaped at dawn on Monday by sawing off the iron bars of their cell until there was a hole big enough for them to crawl through.

Police said they were closing in on the four remaining escapees, but declined to go into details, saying it could jeopardize ongoing operations.

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MMDA offers jobs to everyone

By DJ Yap

EVEN FORMER CONVICTS ARE WELCOME to apply for some of the 2,000 jobs up for grabs under the employment program of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

The agency announced last week that it is still looking for prospective workers who may want to avail of the "Trabaho Trabaho" program, a pet project of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said any person between ages 18 and 50 may apply—even those with criminal records. All that would be required of applicants is a certificate of clearance issued by the barangay chair in their area.

"Ex-convicts are welcome to apply because the MMDA believes everyone deserves a second chance," he added.

Most of the available jobs are manual, such as street sweepers, welders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and painters, Fernando said.

According to him, the MMDA is boosting its workforce to fulfill its mission of transforming Metro Manila and making it more livable by 2010 under its "Metro Gwapo" program.

Some 4,000 Metro Manila residents have joined the program since last year.

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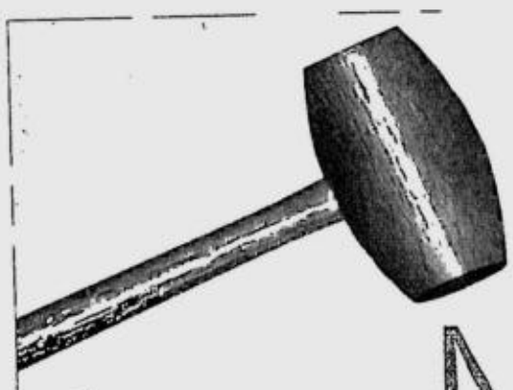

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METROBRIEFS

2 get life term for drugs

TWO MEN caught selling over 300 grams of shabu in May 2000 were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday. Judge Myra Garcia-Fernandez of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 found Mohamid Dalandang Abdurahman and Michael Malaquian Ambolodto guilty of violating Sec. 15, Art. 3 of Republic Act No. 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972, and were ordered to pay a fine of P1 million each. The two were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation after they sold a plastic bag containing 307.3602 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) to an undercover agent in Sampaloc, Manila.

Allison W. Lopez

Woman kills husband

A 33-YEAR-OLD woman stabbed dead her husband after he allegedly beat her up Monday night. Policemen arrested Jinky Domingo, of 8 Amuslan Street, Barangay Masambong in La Loma, Quezon City, after she voluntarily surrendered for reportedly killing her husband, Danilo, 26, inside their house. PO2 Mario Turiano, case investigator, said the incident happened at around 11 p.m. Monday, when the victim went home drunk and punched and kicked his wife. Domingo got hold of a fan knife and stabbed her husband several times, police said. Neighbors took Danilo to the Sta. Teresita Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Bayanihan dancer recalls night with Paul Newman

By Tina G. Santos

"I FELT LIKE I WAS FLOATING ON a cloud the entire evening," said Veronica "Veth" Elizabeth Atega-Nable of Paco, Manila, describing how she felt on the night she was crowned Miss Fil-Am Queen of the former Subic Naval Base on the fourth of July, 46 years ago.

With the honor came a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet—and hold hands—with famous Hollywood actor Paul Newman who was her escort.

"I was tongue-tied for a moment," Nable said, recalling the first time she came face-to-face with Newman whom she described as "very warm and friendly" and "has the lightest blue eyes I've ever seen. I felt like I was the luckiest girl on earth," she added.

Nable, who won the title at the age of 23, said the chance in a lifetime came as a complete surprise to her.

She recalled that she was enjoying her summer vacation in Agusan del Norte when she got a call from Manila informing her that Rear Adm. Charles Duncan, then Subic base commander, and members of the 1962 Fil-Am Fiesta Committee had chosen her to be the queen of the Fil-Am fiesta to be held inside the American base.

"It was completely unexpected because I had not made any effort nor dreamt of succeeding popular movie star Gloria Romero, the title holder in the previous year," said Nable, who is now 68.

"I was very excited and flattered they chose me, especially when I was told that Mr. Newman would be my escort."

She later learned that the Agusan governor had submitted her name to the committee. Before that, she represented Region 10 in a nationwide search for Miss Philippines.

"And in Bayanihan perfomances, I didn't know that they were observing me," she added. Nable was a member of the original batch of the Bayanihan, the country's national folk dance company.

Perfect

"It was a perfect evening," she said, adding that she was wearing a white beaded terno with a long cape and elbow-length gloves made by Pitoy Moreno. "There was Paul Newman beside me, a crown on my head, my colleagues at Bayanihan and famous local and Hollywood celebrities like Shirley MacLaine entertaining my court."

Her court included movie stars Amalia Fuentes, Lourdes Medel and Adorable Liwanag.

But the parade that preceded the coronation night was equally thrilling, Nable said.

"A handsome Navy officer, who 'won' his escort duties in a raffle, stood beside me in the Queen's float, holding an umbrella over me. It rained but it did not dampen the gaiety of the kilometer-long parade," she recalled.

She said her stint as Miss Fil-Am Queen paved the way for other opportunities for her, including modeling stints and being on the cover of several magazines.

After her reign, Nable again focused on one of the things she loved doing most: Dancing.

She joined the Bayanihan at 19, while taking up nutrition at the Philippine Women's University on Taft Avenue, Manila, which organized the dance troupe.

"I was recruited to form the first Bayanihan Dance Group," she said. Nable added that being a member of the Bayanihan "fulfilled my love for dancing and allowed us to show our countrymen and the world the beauty of our dances."

The Bayanihan, whose members have been touring the world as cultural emissaries for the Philippines, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this October.

"Life after Bayanihan revolved around marriage and family, another beautiful and fulfilling experience," said the girl who gave it all up to marry Horacio Nable. "I stopped being active in the Bayanihan when I got married. But I have not stopped dancing yet."

VETH with actor Newman: An evening to remember. At right, PWU's Veth: Still pretty and still dancing after all these years. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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CHEVROLET

N. Korea makes new demand before nuke shutdown

WASHINGTON—NORTH KOREA has said it wants to get promised shipments of oil before shutting down its Yongbyon nuclear reactor, delaying again a key obligation under a February nuclear agreement, US officials said on Monday.

Administration critics of the agreement said the demand was further evidence of North Korean bad faith, but two other senior officials said they believe the agreement was on track and any delay in shuttering Yongbyon would not be prolonged.

Chief US negotiator Christopher Hill said last week he wanted Pyongyang to shut down Yongbyon, which produces plutonium for the North's main nuclear weapons program, before holding a new round of six-country talks, expected next week.

But US officials told Reuters Pyongyang had informed South Korea, which is providing the heavy fuel oil, and the International Atomic Energy Agency that it wanted at least some of the heavy fuel oil before the reactor is shut down.

"I think there's a sense that the North Koreans do want to start receiving elements of the 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil as they move toward shutting down Yongbyon," said one US official, who, like the others, spoke on condition of anonymity.

After the Feb. 13 announcement, a different senior official who briefed reporters said that there would be no shipment of the heavy fuel oil "until we're satisfied that the shutdown, the sealing, is occurring." US officials say Yongbyon is continuing to operate and there are no signs of preparations for a shutdown.

A member of the administration who opposes the deal accused Pyongyang of "slow rolling us again." But a supporter urged patience, saying the North Koreans just wanted assurances the fuel oil shipments would happen. "We are down to a couple of weeks" when the nuclear reactor will be shuttered, he said. *Reuters*

Opera star Beverly Sills dies of cancer at 78

NEW YORK—BEVERLY Sills, the Brooklyn-born opera diva who was a global icon of can-do American culture with her dazzling voice, bubbly personality and management moxie in the arts world, died of cancer, her manager said. She was 78.

It had been revealed just last month that Sills was gravely ill with inoperable lung cancer. Sills, who never smoked, died about 9 p.m. Monday at her Manhattan home with her family and doctor at her side, said her manager, Edgar Vincent.

Beyond the music world, Sills gained fans worldwide with a style that matched her childhood nickname, Bubbles.

Long after the public stopped hearing her sing in 1980, Sills' rich, infectious laughter filled the American living rooms as she hosted live TV broadcasts. As recently as last season, she conducted backstage interviews for the Metropolitan Opera's high-definition movie theater performances.

SILLS REUTERS

Sills first gained fame with a high-octane career that helped put Americans on the international map of opera stars.

Her 1958 appearances as Baby Doe would become among her best known, in a tale of a silver-mine millionaire who leaves his wife for Baby Doe and eventually dies penniless.

Sills' face once graced the covers of Time and Newsweek magazines as an American who had conquered the classical music world, even abroad—at the time a rarity. *AP*

Wrestler Benoit's personal doctor charged

ATLANTA—THE PERSONAL doctor of a professional wrestler who killed his wife and son before committing suicide was charged Monday with improperly dispensing painkillers and other drugs to his patients.

The seven-count indictment said Dr. Phil Astin, physician to wrestler Chris Benoit, dispensed drugs including Percocet, Xanax, Lorcet and Vicoprofen between April 2004 and September 2005. The recipients were identified in the indictment by the initials O.G. and M.J.; Benoit's initials were not listed.

Astin was expected to make an initial court appearance Monday afternoon.

A separate criminal complaint made public Monday said Astin had written prescriptions for about one million doses of controlled substances over the past two years, including "significant quantities" of injectable testosterone cypionate, an anabolic steroid.

The complaint by Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Anissa Jones said the amount of prescriptions was "excessive" for a medical office with a sole practitioner in a rural area like Carrollton, about 65 km west of Atlanta.

The affidavit said he prescribed a 10-month supply of anabolic steroids to Benoit every three to four weeks between May 2006 and May 2007. It says that during a probe of a company called RX Weight Loss, Benoit was identified as an excessive purchaser of injectable steroids.

The affidavit also said Astin was identified as the supplier of various controlled substances, including injectable anabolic steroids that were found in Benoit's home.

Astin has not been charged with supplying steroids to Benoit, though US Attorney David E. Nahmias said that the investigation continues and that more charges are possible.

Federal prosecutors are seeking the forfeiture of all property and proceeds Astin obtained through the illegal conduct if he is convicted. *AP*

ASTIN AP

Putin makes new offer to Bush on missile plan

KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE—RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin made a new counterproposal to President George W. Bush on Monday for reshaping a planned US missile shield that has strained relations between their countries.

After talks at the Bush family compound, Bush called Putin's offer "very innovative" and worthy of study, but insisted the antimissile system must still be based in eastern Europe despite Russia's bitter objections.

The informal, two-day summit on the rocky Maine coast was aimed at restoring the rapport the two leaders once enjoyed and easing tensions that have taken the US-Russia relationship to a post-Cold War low.

Bush and Putin turned from fishing trips and lobster meals to serious diplomacy on Monday but produced no breakthroughs.

Afterward, they did their best to project an image of harmony.

"Do I trust him? Yes, I trust him," Bush said of Putin as they stood side by side in the Atlantic breeze. "There are times when we've agreed on issues and there are times when we haven't agreed on issues."

With the two countries especially at odds over missile defense, Putin issued a new proposal, expanding on his surprise offer last month for joint use of Russian radar in Azerbaijan as an alternative to the US plan.

Washington has made clear it does not see Putin's earlier idea as a substitute but has yet to reject it for fear of appearing inflexible to already skeptical European allies.

Putin raised the ante on Monday with suggestions to incorporate a radar system in southern Russia and bring more European nations into decision-making on missile defense under the umbrella of the Russia-Nato Council.

"The relationship of our two countries would be raised to an entirely new level," Putin said.

Putin has said he is not convinced by Washington's insistence that the antimissile shield, with key components based in Poland and the Czech Republic, was meant to defend against "rogue states" like Iran. Moscow considers it a security threat and an impingement on its former sphere of influence.

Seeking some common ground, Bush, pushing for tougher UN sanctions against Iran, said Putin shared US concerns about Tehran's nuclear program. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Burma frees AIDS activist

RANGOON—A prominent AIDS activist detained by the military government of Burma (Myanmar) was freed Tuesday, six weeks after her arrest for joining in prayer vigils calling for the release of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "I arrived home about 9:30 p.m. (Monday) night. I was released from a detention center of the police's special branch office," Phyu Phyu Thin said. Phyu Phyu Thin, 36, was taken from her home by police on May 21 after attending prayer vigils calling for the freedom of Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest in Rangoon for most of the past 18 years. *AFP*

7 Spanish tourists killed in Yemen

SANAA—Seven Spanish tourists and two Yemeni drivers were killed on Monday when a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into their convoy at an ancient temple in Yemen, officials said. The interior ministry said the bombing in the restive region of Marib appeared to be the work of the al-Qaida network. Witnesses said the attack occurred as the tourists were wrapping up a tour of a temple in Marib which dates back 3,000 years to the time of the biblical Queen of Sheba. The ministry official said the convoy which was carrying 13 tourists was attacked by an "explosives-laden car driven by a suicide terrorist." *AFP*

Fretilin ahead in Timor polls

DILI—East Timor's ruling Fretilin party kept a slight lead Tuesday with about half the votes counted after weekend legislative elections in the troubled young nation, the official tally showed. Former president Xanana Gusmao, considered a hero by many for his battle to win East Timor's independence from occupying Indonesia, founded a new party for the election in a bid to wrest control from the dominant Fretilin. But Gusmao's National Congress of East Timor's Reconstruction (CNRT), on 22.1 percent, trails Fretilin's 30.1 percent share with almost 250,000 ballots counted, the election commission's website showed. *AFP*

Russia charges Berezovsky with coup plot

MOSCOW—Russian prosecutors have charged emigre tycoon Boris Berezovsky with plotting to seize power, his lawyer said on Monday. The multimillionaire, who lives in Britain where he has been granted refugee status, said he was confident Britain would never extradite him to Russia. "He has been charged with conspiring to seize power in a violent coup," Andrei Borovkov, Berezovsky's lawyer told journalists. The charge was brought by Russia's FSB secret service, said the lawyer, and related to an interview the tycoon gave to Britain's Guardian newspaper in which he was quoted as saying force was needed to bring about a change of power in Russia. *Reuters*

33 militants killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR—Afghan and Nato forces clashed with Taliban militants in a dangerous southern region overnight, leaving 33 suspected insurgents dead, the provincial governor said Tuesday. The joint forces carried out the nighttime operation in the Zhari district of Kandahar, said provincial governor Asadullah Khalid. Four other suspected militants were arrested. There were no casualties among Afghan or Nato forces, he said. Nato spokesperson Maj. John Thomas said the military used air strikes in the operation around daybreak Tuesday, and that it was possible a "small number of insurgents" were killed. Wounded militants were provided with medical care, he said. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Japan's defense chief resigns over atomic bomb comments

KYUMA AP

TOKYO—JAPAN'S EMBATTLED DEFENSE minister resigned Tuesday over his comments suggesting the 1945 atomic bombings Hiroshima and Nagasaki were inevitable, dealing a blow to the shaky government weeks ahead of parliamentary elections.

Fumio Kyuma had come under intense criticism from A-bomb survivors, opposition lawmakers and fellow members of the Cabinet following the comments over the weekend. It was not immediately clear when his resignation would take effect.

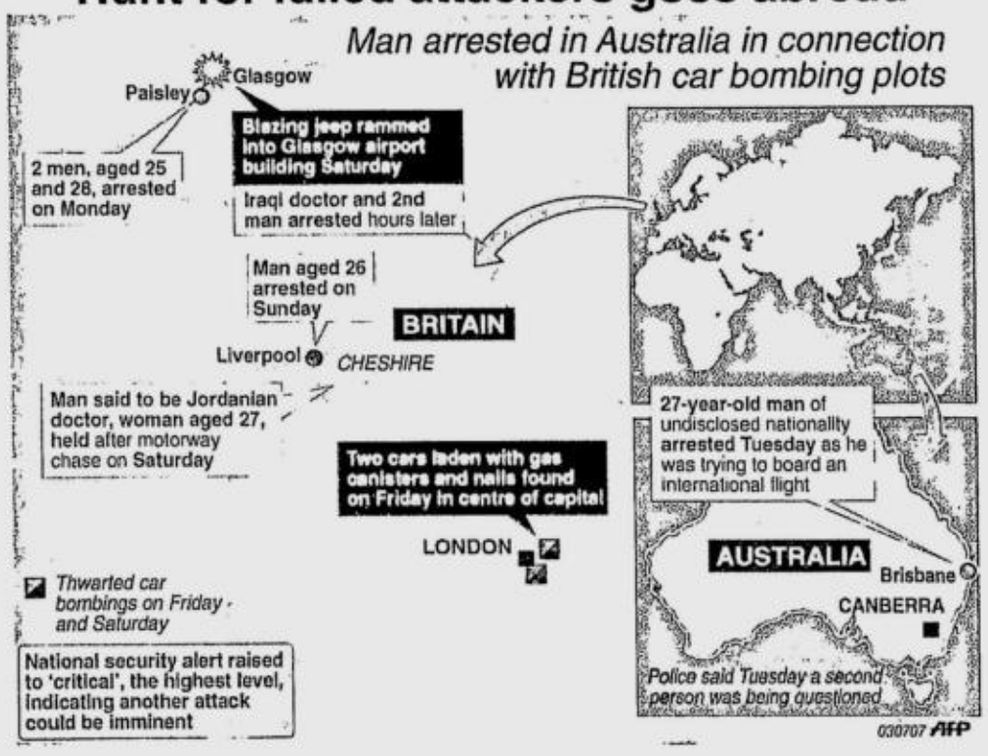
"I told Prime Minister Abe, 'I'm sorry but I must take responsibility and resign.' The prime minister said, 'That's very unfortunate ... but I accept your decision,'" Kyuma told reporters.

Kyuma ignited a political furor on Saturday when he suggested that the US nuclear attacks on Japan before the end of World War II were unavoidable.

The statement contradicted the Japanese stance, fiercely guarded by survivors and their supporters, that the use of nuclear weapons is never justified. A ban on possession of such weapons is a pillar of Japan's postwar pacifist regime. *AP*

Hunt for failed attackers goes abroad

Man arrested in Australia in connection with British car bombing plots



6 doctors linked to UK bomb plot

LONDON—POLICE HELD UP TO SIX doctors in connection with the failed bombings in London and Glasgow after an Indian physician was detained Tuesday in Australia, officials and reports said.

A Jordanian neurosurgeon and an Iraqi doctor were also among the eight suspects now under questioning as the investigation spread around the world.

With Britain still on top alert for a new al-Qaida-style attack, police carried out a controlled explosion on a car near a Glasgow mosque early Tuesday. A British security source told AFP that the group had a bomb factory in the Scottish city.

The source also said all of the people implicated in the plot so far were working in the British state health system and that all the suspects were from Middle East countries.

British newspapers said up to five of the suspects already held in Britain were doctors.

A 27-year-old Indian, detained in Australia, became the sixth doctor implicated in the plot.

Following a British police tip, the man was arrested at Brisbane airport as he tried to leave the country, Australian officials said.

The Indian had been working since September in the Gold Coast Hospital in eastern Queensland state. Australian police were also questioning a second doctor, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie told reporters. Both were recruited from the English city of Liverpool.

Beattie told reporters "the doctor was regarded by the hospital in many senses to be a model citizen." The suspects in custody include a Jordanian surgeon named by officials in Amman as Mohammed Jamil Abdelkader Asha, and his wife. The Jordanian's offices in a British hospital were searched Monday.

British media identified one of the two Glasgow attackers as an Iraqi doctor named Bilal Abdulla.

Police refused to comment on BBC reports that all those arrested were from the Middle East.

They said, however, there are "ever clearer" links between the Glasgow attack and the failed bombings in London, adding that both investigations were now under the control of the London police's Counter-Terrorism Command.

The first arrests were made Saturday when police detained two men who drove a blazing Jeep Cherokee loaded with gas canisters into the doors of Glasgow airport's main terminal. One of them remains in critical condition in hospital with severe burns.

That attack came just a day after two Mercedes cars laden with gas canisters and nails were found abandoned in London's entertainment district.

London's Evening Standard newspaper reported that the London bombings failed to explode because of a technical problem with mobile phones, left in the cars, that were supposed to detonate the gas canisters.

The perpetrators called one of the mobiles twice and the other four times. Neither bomb detonated, and detectives used the calls logged to trace those responsible, the paper said.

Britain remains on the highest national security threat level, meaning another attack is feared to be imminent.

Antiterrorist officers later arrested a 26-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman, believed to be Asha and his wife, on a motorway in northwest England. They are now being questioned in London.

A fifth suspect, a 26-year-old man, was arrested in Liverpool on Saturday night. On Sunday, two other men, aged 25 and 28, were detained outside Glasgow.

Police were given permission Monday to detain five of the suspects so far arrested until Saturday under antiterror laws.

"I'm very encouraged by the progress" made in the investigation, said Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, who made a defiant statement to lawmakers. "It is through our unity that the terrorists will eventually be defeated," she said. *AFP*

OVER THE HUMP WEDNESDAY

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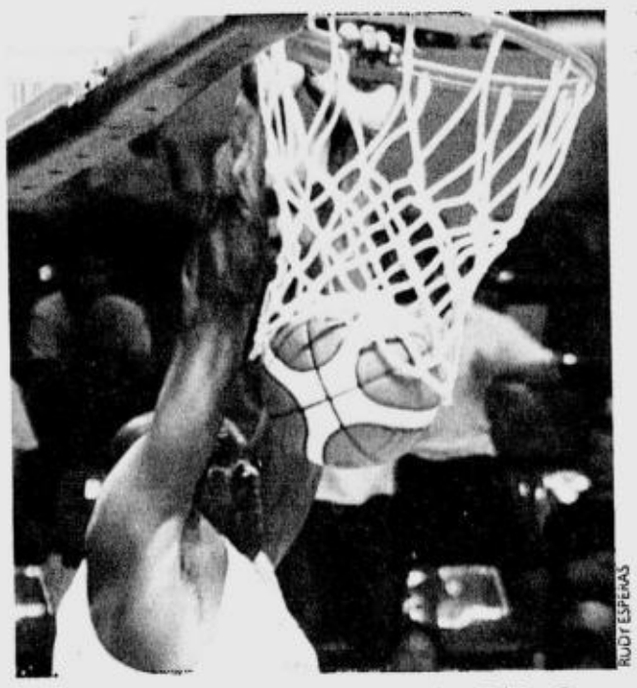
Serena survives with a lot of heart–and a little rain/A28

Red Lions shoot for 3rd win in a row sans Ekwe



RUDY ESPERAS

FOR kicking Perpetual Help's Lee Sang last Friday, San Beda's Sam Ekwe will watch game from the bench.

WILL THE ABSENCE OF ITS BIGGEST —and baddest—Lion make San Beda vulnerable?

If Mapua is looking for a breakthrough win, this just might be its chance.

The Cardinals take on the unbeaten Red Lions missing its top gun, Sam Ekwe, in the NCAA men's basketball tournament today at The Arena in San Juan.

Gametime is 4 p.m., following the match between the St. Benilde Blazers and the Perpetual Help Altas.

The Blazers are gunning for their second win against the Altas, who still have nothing to show after two games.

Ekwe, the Lions' 6-foot-8 Nigerian sophomore, will sit out the game after he was slapped a one-game suspension for kicking Perpetual Help's Korean enforcer Lee Sang on Friday.

Lee precipitated the attack by going under Ekwe during an alley-oop attempt.

Off-hand, the Lions will have to source out 12 points and 16.5 rebounds—the flashy Nigerian's averages in two games—elsewhere.

More than that, coach Frankie Lim admits that they will miss Ekwe's menacing presence in the shaded area.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	2	0
Letran	2	0
Jose Rizal	1	1
San Sebastian	1	1
St. Benilde	1	1
Perpetual	0	2
Mapua	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
2 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Perpetual (Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs San Beda (Srs)

"He (Ekwe) is a big factor us," said Lim. "But this is a challenge for us, especially for my (other) big guys."

Lim was referring to rookie relief slotman David Marcelo and veteran frontcourt standouts Yousif Aljamal and Jay-R Taganas.

"We are a tough team, though, and we can survive," added Lim, who marshalled his second unit to finish the job and blow Perpetual Help off the court, 86-62.

"We just have to be smarter and not react the way Sam did. I don't blame him, though."

The Cardinals, among the pre-season favorites, are surprisingly down in the pits following back-to-back losses to the Letran Knights, 84-80, and the Blazers, 74-68.

To break the ice, the shorter Cardinals will need big games from wingmen Kelvin dela Peña and Neil Anthony Pascual, and to outrun and outgun the Lions.

Coach Leo Isaac knows he will need more than that.

With a squad that also boasts of the hardworking Aljamal, Ogie Menor, Pong Escobal and Borgie Hermida, the defending champion Lions still look untouchable.

Marc Anthony Reyes

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Chinese rookie asks Bucks to trade him

YI: Where the heart is

BEIJING—CHINA'S YI Jianlian, taken by the Milwaukee Bucks with the sixth selection in the NBA draft, wants to be traded to another team, according to the player's Chinese agent.

Media reports have said the 7-foot power forward would prefer playing in a city with a larger Asian population. According to the US Census Bureau, Asians accounted for about 3 percent of Milwaukee County's 2006 estimated 915,000 population.

"We started to contact teams that had shown an interest in Yi right after the draft," Zhao Gang was quoted as saying in the China Daily newspaper on Tuesday.

"His representatives and I won't just sit here and do nothing just because he was picked by Milwaukee. We are considering Yi's future at the Bucks and are looking at trade possibilities."

Yi travelled to Dallas to join the Chinese national team for an exhibition game on Sunday instead of meeting with Milwaukee officials.

The team's owner, Herb Kohl, had written to Yi to ask that he meet with Bucks officials, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. Bucks coach Larry Krystkowiak said he would do whatever he could to make Yi feel more comfortable in the Midwestern city.

Yi could return to his Chinese team, the Guangdong Tigers, if he spurns Milwaukee, although the Bucks would retain his NBA rights.

Reuters

Archers may bench questioned rookie

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH THE LA SALLE EAGER TO rise from the horror of last year's eligibility-induced suspension, the Archers no longer mind if they end up one-man short in their return stint in the 70th UAAP men's basketball competition this Saturday.

The team announced that it is willing to go with a still-formidable lineup pending the submission of the complete eligibility papers of Fil-Bahraini Bader Malabes.

"Of course it's better to have more bodies," said Bro. Bernie Oca, La Salle's representative to the UAAP Board. "But if we don't meet the deadline, then he's not eligible. We'll just play with 14 (men)."

The board has given Malabes, a streaky rookie shooter, until Thursday to submit the documents from the Bureau of Immigration.

League rules limit the number of foreign players in each team to two.

La Salle has already listed Serbian Marko Batricevic and Indonesian Ferdinand as its two imports.

That means if Malabes doesn't get documents proving his Filipino lineage, he will be listed as a foreigner, putting La Salle one over the allowed number of foreign players.

The Archers served a one-year suspension last year for inadvertently fielding two ineligible players in three consecutive seasons.

This year, the Archers return with Rico Maierhofer and TY Tang spearheading their debut against the University of the Philippines Maroons this Saturday at 2 p.m., right before the 4 p.m. clash between Far Eastern University and National University at the Araneta Coliseum.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ailing stars spark UST title romp

SAN JUAN Mayor JV Ejercito awards the trophy to the Tigresse

By Romina Austria

IT WAS NOT WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED FOR UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas but it nevertheless produced the championship crown for the Tigresses in the 4th Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament.

Mary Jean Balse, afflicted with the flu since the weekend, powered the Tigresses past the San Sebastian College Lady Stags, 25-14, 25-19, 17-25, 25-13, last night to complete a two-game title sweep at The Arena in San Juan.

Team officials, however, had to plead with UST Hospital doctors to allow Balse and guest player Suzanne Roces for the all-important Game 2. Angeli Tabaquero also manifested flu symptoms.

UST won the first two sets with relative ease but relaxed on defense in the third, allowing San Sebastian to delay the celebration.

Starring guest Thai player and league Most Valuable Player Jaroensri Bualee, the Lady Stags erected a 7-0 lead in the third set, increased it to 10-8 and never allowed Santo Tomas to tie to extend the match to a fourth set.

The Tigresses pulled away early in the deciding set, with Balse, Venus Bernal and guest player Rubie de Leon scoring on attacks, and built a 10-5 lead from which the Lady Stags never recovered.

"I told my players that once we get the ball, San Sebastian will have a hard time," said UST coach Augusto Santamaria. "They took it easy in the third set, so I had to remind them to get back on defense, especially on blocking."

UST also took Game 1, 25-17, 25-12, 25-17, last Sunday.

The Tigresses, also the defending UAAP champions, arrived at The Are- na 30 minutes before t as they had to wait for lease orders on Balse a

Balse, despite prompted Santamaria of the match several t aged 24 points whil Bernal made 18 while Aiza Maizon chipped apiece.

Immediately after t and Roces were broug room to rest.

Bualee led San Sel points.

Marquez: Pacman will beat

MARQUEZ: Pacquiao hits harder.

REIGNING WORLD BOXING COUNCIL SUPER featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez predicts that Manny Pacquiao will again overpower his compatriot Marco Antonio Barrera when the two clash on Oct. 6 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

Marquez should know.

"I fought Pacquiao and I fought Barrera," Marquez told the ring website Boxingtalk. "I won against Barrera and I had a draw against Pacquiao.

"I know Pacquiao hits harder than Barrera and I know Barrera doesn't have what it takes to win over Pacquiao. Pacquiao is faster and stronger."

Marquez, however, is rooting for Barrera, who was stopped by Pacquiao in the 11th round in their first meeting in 2003 in San Antonio, Texas.

"I'll go for Barrera because he's Mexican, but I know that Pacquiao is going to win," the champion said.

Having been felled by Pacquiao three times in the first round before scrounging for a controversial draw in 2004, Marquez is also aching for a rematch with the Filipino, acknowledged as the world's most exciting fighter today.

But before a rematch with Pacquiao can take place, Marquez will have to stake his WBC title in a choice defense against Jorge Barrios of Argentina on Sept. 15 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena also in Las Vegas.

"I'm very happy to have the fight," said Marquez. "It's a very special day for Mexicans. It's Independence Day.

Marquez admits that fighting Jorge Barrios is not going to be easy, "but I'm going to prepare myself the best

SPORTSWATCH

SJC derby set today

THE SAN PABLO 5-COCK DERBY KICKS OFF TODAY AT THE SAN JUAN Coliseum (SJC). A total of 70 fights are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and hosted by Pol Estrellado. Meanwhile the "3M Rambulan" 6-cock derby sizzles on July 10, 12, 14, 17,19, 21 and 24 also at the SJC. The guaranteed prize for the champion is pegged at P1.6 million. Please call 7255369 and 0917-8041691 for details.

PCAP Championship gets going Saturday

THE 13TH AND FINAL LEG OF PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series unfolds on Saturday at the Makati Coliseum. The team of Biboy Enriquez, Joel Fernando and Paul Dominguez remains the frontrunner in the 2007 PCAP Cocker of the Year race, followed by Sandy Sur. Sponsors are Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. The "Salpukan Sa Taglugon" 6-cock derby follows on July 23, 25, 28, 30 and Aug. 1

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Extreme Heat/Formidable Ella 91), Run Like D'Wind (5), Arrivederci 92), La Ferouse (3)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Doomstead (2), Highway Builder (5), My Sweet Swanie (6), Marcus Empire (1)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Man Power (6), Storm Hall (2), Grand Fiesta (9), Manila Magic (7), EJ Forever (3)

Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sound of Silence (10), Quick Play (7), Dow Jones (3), Material Ruler (4), Reigns Supreme (9), Angie Red (1)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Coat of Arms (4), Do Re Mi (2), El Love Senora (2), Honey UR Mine (5)

Race 6—(Firehouse) (5), Varsity Girl (9), Sandok (6), Heart of the Wind (3), Master Professor (4)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Minsk City (9), Fire Lady (6), Anndalei (10), Siglakas (5), Instant (2)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Bahrain (2), Shifty (4), Mr. Gee (3), Celestial/Megal Drive (5), Selectee (10), Dream Rose (11)

Million-peso poker qualifying remains open for bidders

PLAYERS CAN STILL SECURE FREE SEATS TO the grand finals of the third PPT Million-Peso Hold'em Championship by taking part in daily tournaments being held at The Player's Den on A. Mabini Street in Malate, Manila.

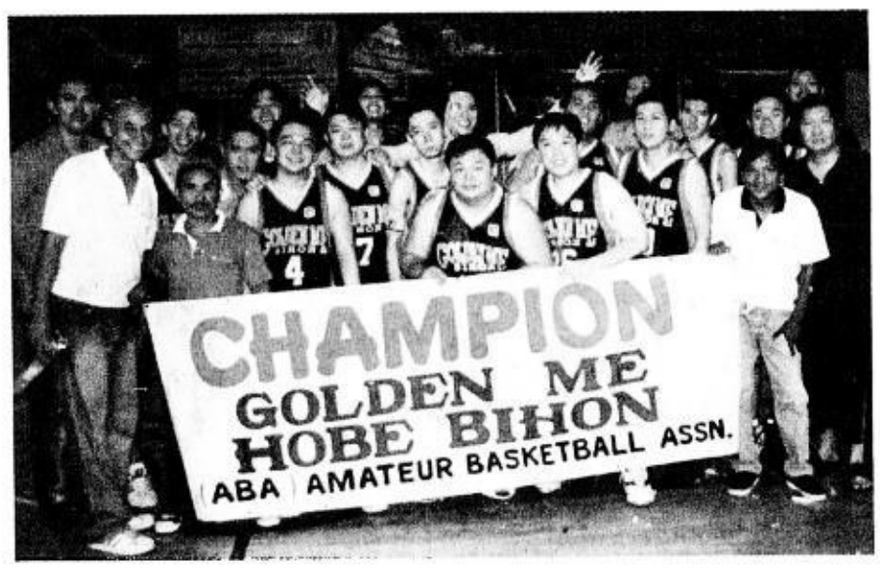
Qualifying events at The Player's Den, located at 1786 A. Mabini, in front of Hobbit House Restaurant, end on July 6, according to Philippine Poker Tour chair and CEO Rey Gamboa.

The grand finals are slated on July 7 and 8 at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque, where satellite winners nationwide compete for the million-peso guaranteed prize.

The grand champion has the option to choose as prize an all-expense paid vacation to Los Angeles, where he will represent the country in the "Legends of Poker" tournament, set in August.

Non-satellite winners can still join the grand finals by paying P33,000 in tournament fees.

For inquiries, call the PPT Secretariat at 812-0153, 0917-833-6648, or 0920-921-8891.



ABA CAGING CHAMP

Players and team officials of Hobe Bihon show their streamer after nailing the championship of the recent Amateur Baskatball Association (ABA) tournament at the FEU Gym. The squad, which also ruled the Picaa Open last month, was led by team owner Bobby Co (center) and managed by Jerry Tan (left). The team, backed by former PBA player Estong Ballesteros, Braulio Lim and Willy Callos, is made up of (in playing jersey, front row from left) Brian Ngo, most valuable player Maverick Chua, Bernard Uy and (second row) Jerry Ong, Mike Lao, Wally Li, Kevin Sze, Paul Boo, Albert Labordo and Terry So. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bayr Ama

CAGAYAN DE Bayron closed der-par 71 on Championship en leg of the P Tour presente Pueblo de O Club here.

Counting hi 76, the 25-yea brother of RP pooled 219 to shot. Ababa cl

Mark Ferna asabas shared lowing identic field dominate

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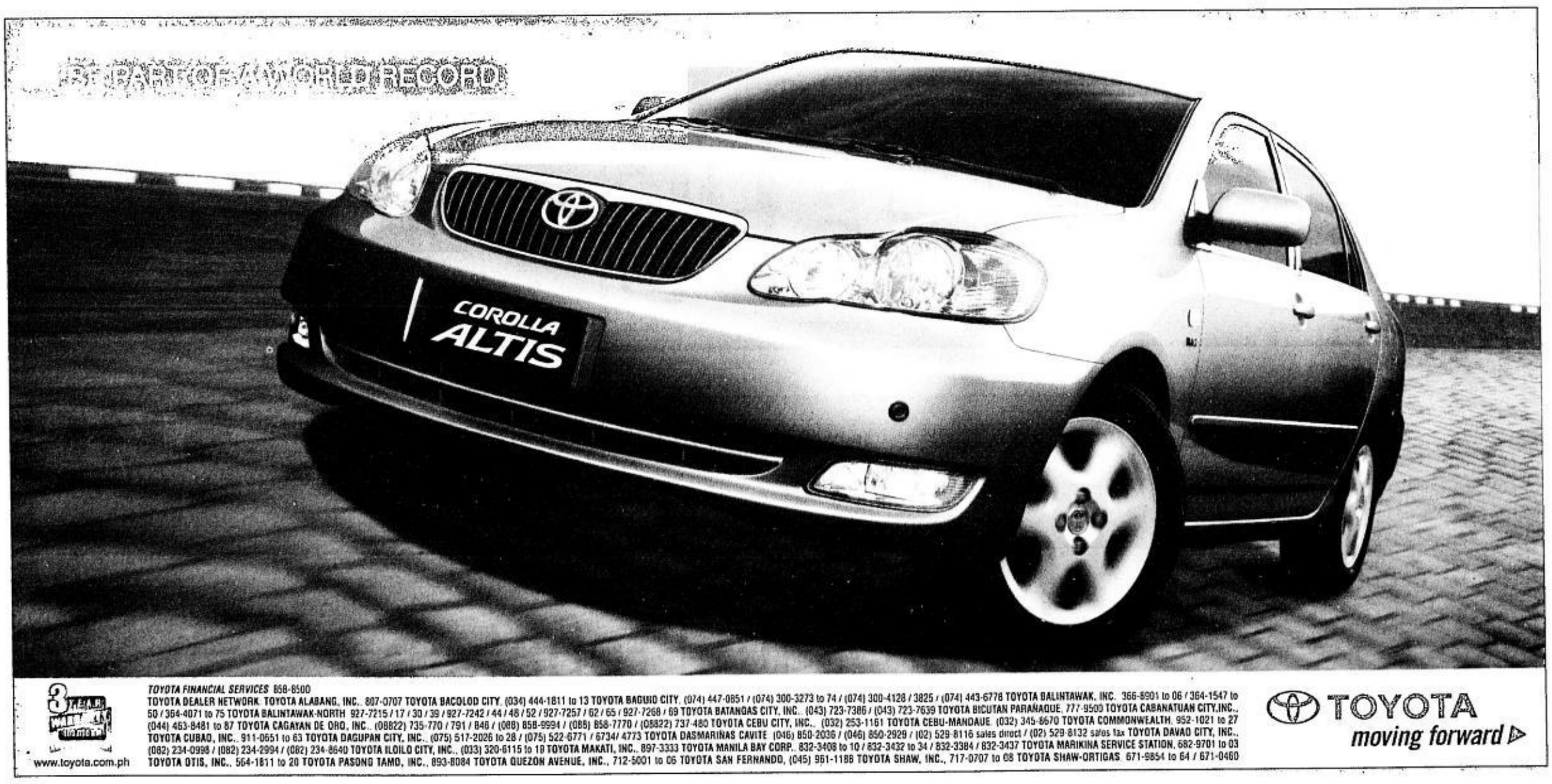

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s. At right is Shakey's GM Vic Gregorio. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Roces had 7.
Tabaquero and
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astian with 24

Fr. Ermito de Sagon, OP, UST's athletic director and this year's UAAP president, had nothing but praises for his wards, especially Balse and Roces.

"This is definitely a good sign for our UAAP campaign," said De Sagon, who acted as team photographer during the awarding rites. "The V-League is part of our preparation and we are glad to come out on top."

The Lady Stags tied the Tigresses' 8-3 record at the end of the semifinals but was relegated to a playoff match with La Salle for the second finals slot because of an inferior quotient.

RP Open draws world's No. 2 tandem

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE WORLD'S SECOND-RANKED PAIR of Koo Kiet Keat and Tan Boon Heong of Malaysia backstops a tough men's doubles field in the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships which gets going July 18 at the PhilSports Arena.

Unbeaten since first teaming up in 2005, Koo and Tan clinched the Asian Games gold after disposing the fancied Indon pair of Luluk Hadiyanto and Alvent Yulianto Chandra in the men's double finals in Doha, Qatar, last December.

Koo and Tan will be up against a talent-laden field that includes world No. 6 Tony Gunawan of the Unites States and Candra Wijaya of Indonesia.

The 21-year-old Koo and the 19-year-old Tan also bagged the doubles championship in the 2005 Denmark and Swiss Opens and the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games last year.

Five of the world's top 10 players are in the fold in the men's singles, including Olympic and Asian Games champion Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia.

Hidayat, seeded ninth in the latest world rankings, will mix it up against world No. 2 Chen Hong, No. 3 Lee and No. 6 Bao Chunlai of China and No. 8 Kenneth Jonassen of Denmark.

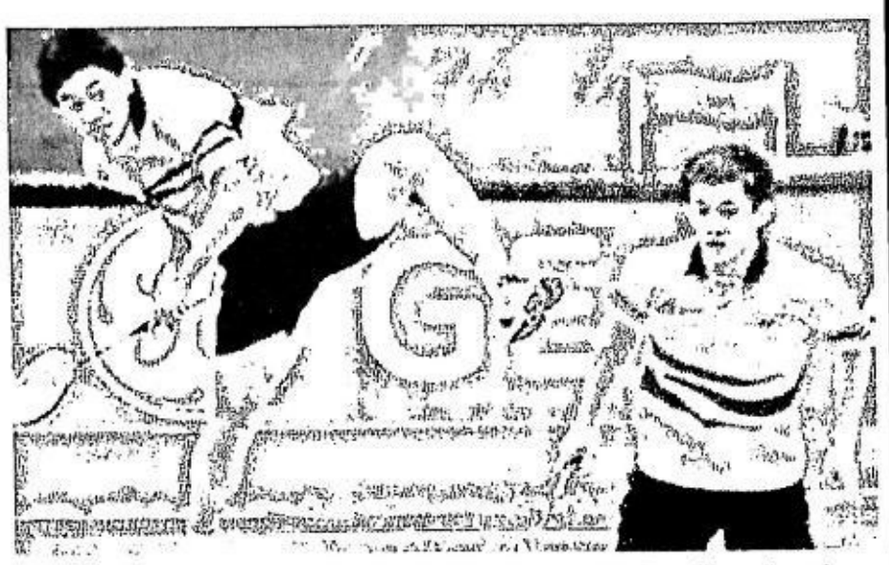
The majority of the 35 Filipino bets, including 20 in singles, vie for spots in the tournament proper during the one-day qualifying on July 17.

The Asuncion siblings—Kennie and Kennevic—will take another crack at the mixed doubles crown after losing last year's title to Thais Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thoungthangkam.

Just like in the mixed doubles, Malaysians are favored to put up a tough fight in the singles competition.

Defending champion Hafiz Hashim, world No. 3 Lee Chong Wei, Kay Bin Yeoh and Lee Buen Seng stand at the vanguard of Malaysia's solid roster in men's singles.

World No. 11 Wong Mew Choo, runner-up in the recent Malaysia Super Series, and Wong Pei Xian Julia will spearhead Malaysia's bid in women's singles.



TOP BILLING: Malaysia's Koo Kiet Keat (left) and partner Tan Boon Heong in action.

The tandem of Lim Pek Siah and Quay Joan Swee Ling will be their women's doubles bet, while the pair of Chan Peng Soon and Abdul Latif Nairul Suhaidu will carry the cudgels in the mixed doubles.

The five-day event, sanctioned by the International Badminton Federation and organized by IMG, drew 319 players—doubling last year's roster and tripling the cast in the inaugurals—from 31 countries.

Barrera again

way I can so I can give my best on fight day."

On Nov. 15, 2003, Pacquiao came in as a huge underdog but bludgeoned Barrera into submission at the Alamodome. Barrera had been seeking a rematch with Pacquiao, but icy relations between his promoter, Golden Boy Promotions, and Pacquiao's handler Top Rank had put that plan on hold.

The rematch was finally forged after GBP and Top Rank recently ended years of animosity following a successful mediation presided over by former judge Daniel Weinstein.

Pacquiao and his trainer, Freddie Roach, believe that Barrera continues to be a formidable and dangerous opponent despite the latter's loss to Marquez in his last fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Cooking Oil Masters post 10th victory

ILOILO CITY—TAGAYTAY SPRING COOKING Oil tightened its grip on the lead in the 2007 Spring-NBC National Cup basketball tournament Monday by spilling the Toyota-Iloilo Warriors, 91-88, at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Rodel Mallari, Nani Epondulan and the comebacking Nino Marquez sizzled in the Cooking Oil Masters' searing second-quarter run to overcome the Warriors' double-digit lead and surge agead 47-44 at the break.

STANDINGS	W	L
Tagaytay	10	3
Iligan	10	4
Ozamiz	9	4
GenSan	9	6
Pagadian	7	7
Davao	6	10
Valencia	5	11
Quezon	5	11
Iloilo	2	11

Mallari and Epondulan scored 11 points each while Marquez, who suited up for Air21 in the PBA, added 10 to help the squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP Mayor Bambol Tolentino clinch their 10th win.

The Warriors of businessman Robert Uy and strong supporter Mayor Jerry Trenas fell to 2-11 in the tournament.

Behind Ruel Balgos and Eldrin Senieres, the Warriors waxed hot early to take a 29-19 edge.

But Spring exploded for 28 points while holding down Iloilo to 15 to wrest the upper hand. The Warriors never recovered from that.

The Cooking Oil Masters shoot for their 11th win against defending champion Ozamiz tomorrow at the Gov. Medina Sr. gym in Ozamiz City.

The scores:

TAGAYTAY 91—Mallari 11, Epondulan 11, Marquez 10, Tajonera 9, De Castro 9, Bolocon 7, Rodriguez 7, Legaspi 6, Victolero 6, Reyes 3, Yambao 2.

ILOILO 88—Balgos 19, Senieres 17, Dedicatoria 13, Rodriguez 11, Tan 11, Cortel 10, Laborte 4, Guangco 3, Leonida 0.

Quarters: 19-29, 47-44, 74-63, 91-88

Israeli GM downs Paragua

ISRAELI GRANDMASTER LEONID YUDASIN bested Filipino GM Mark Paragua in the fifth round yesterday to share top spot in the 35th World Open Chess Championships in Pennsylvania.

Yudasin now has 4.5 points, the same output of American GMs Hikaru Nakamura and Varuzhan Akobian in the chase for the $30,000 top purse.

Nakamura beat American International Master Jay Bonin while Akobian stopped overnight solo leader American GM Alexander Stripunsky.

It was the third defeat for Paragua, who had 2.0 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

·on tops Pilipinas ·teur Golf tourney

)RO CITY—RUFINO out with a one-un- Sunday to rule the division of the maid- lipinas Amateur Golf i by Samsung at the Golf and Country

earlier rounds of 72- -old Rufino, younger Amateur champ Jay, eat Jonel Ababa by a sed with a 72 for 220. ıdo and Jerson Bal- hird place at 221 fol- ıl 74s in the 23-man l by Galatagan bets. gave Paul Echavez a shot in front of Peter ıd a 76. Boboy Jaraula settled wound up tied with Mario Labajo, another Calatagan bet who tallied a 78, at 227.

Veteran Tommy Manotoc, pillar of powerhouse Calatagan, took ninth place after a 78-232, one shot behind teammate Joseph Labajo, who submitted a 74 for 231.

The Class A title went to Arnido Calio, who tallied 76s for 152, four shots clear of Clifford Celdran and Rolly Uy, who had matching 80s.

Dick Aguilar nipped Edward Jin for the Class B crown despite a closing 81 and a 163 total. Jin shot a 79 and finished with a 164.

Jovy Mendoza won Class C, edging Franco Tan. Both pooled a 170, but Mendoza prevailed with his closing 85 to Tan's 97.

Ed Llosa took the Class D title with a 94 and a 184 total, besting Jerry Hill, who made a 91 for a 187.

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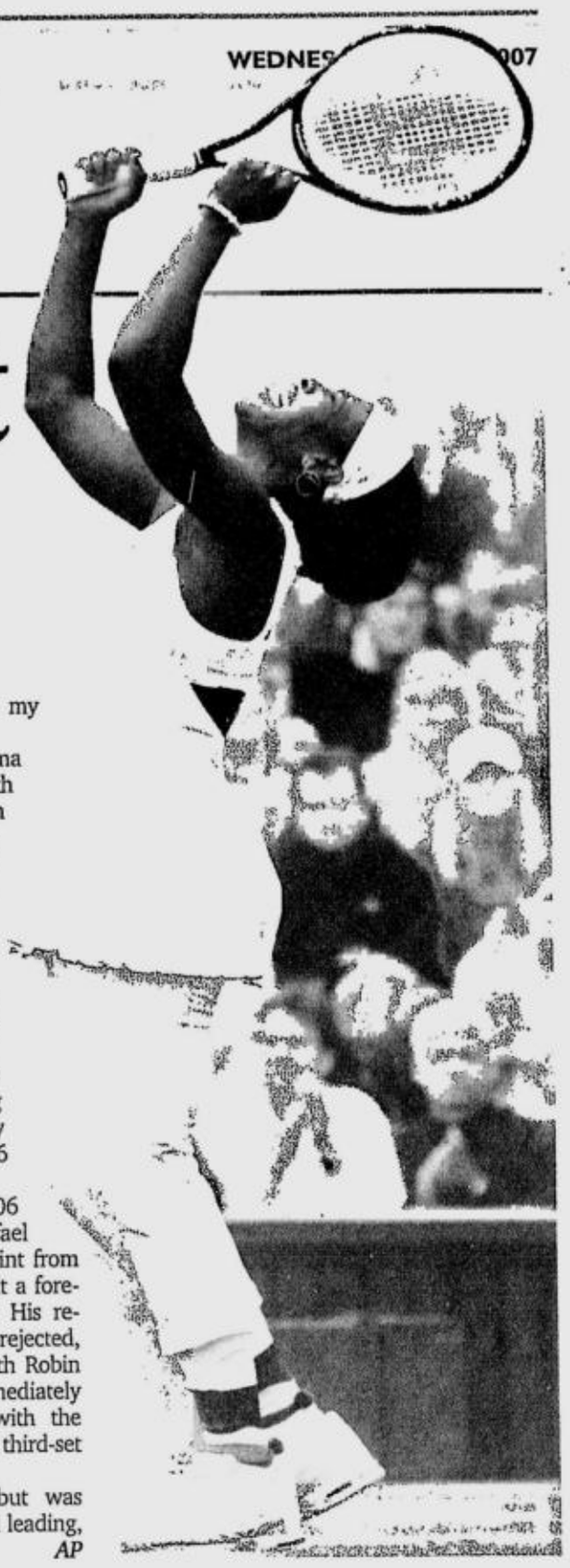
SPORTS

Serena survives with a lot of heart–and a little rain



WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—SERENA Williams' mother advised her to stop playing. Sister Venus urged her to continue.

Serena wavered briefly, then decided to keep on despite a painful calf strain that left her screaming and writhing behind the Centre Court baseline at Wimbledon.

"I would have felt weird if I hadn't tried," she said.

A rain delay of nearly two hours bought her a little time to recover and regroup on Monday, and with both legs wrapped, she won the third set to beat Daniela Hantuchova, 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-2.

The gallant, bizarre victory advanced Williams to the quarterfinals, where she's scheduled to face top-ranked Justine Henin—if she's able.

"She got through," said her mother and coach, Oracene Price. "Can she go through another one? You don't know what the pain's going to be like next time."

It was bad enough against Hantuchova. The injury, described as a spasm-induced left calf strain, struck after Hantuchova hit a forehand winner for a 5-5, 30-15 lead in the second set. Williams grimaced, grabbed her calf, tapped it three times with her racket and crumpled to the lawn.

"I had a very bad acute muscle spasm," Williams said. "Acute, as you know, is a really intense pain."

She remained down for seven minutes, screaming in pain when a trainer massaged the calf.

But she decided to continue, wiping away tears just before the match resumed.

She kept playing for another 11 minutes, hitting shots weakly and walking stiffly in pursuit of the ball. But she managed to hold for 6-all, then won the last two points before rain forced a delay.

"I was literally saved by the rain," Williams said. Price said she wanted her daughter to call it quits.

"I'm thinking it's really not worth all that, to go through all that pain and maybe injure herself worse," Price said. "She's not going to listen to me, not when it comes to Wimbledon."

When the match resumed, Williams moved better, hit aggressively and won the final four games.

Hantuchova was erratic, flustered by the unusual circumstances.

"I lost it," she said. "I had my chances."

Venus Williams endured a drama of her own to reach the fourth round. The three-time champion rallied past Akiko Morigami 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 in a match suspended from Saturday, even though she faced 23 break points, double-faulted 14 times and had to rally at the end.

"They've got fight," Price said. "If they don't have nothing else, they've got fight."

Henin had a much less arduous victory, beating No. 15-seeded Patty Schnyder 6-2, 6-2 in 56 minutes.

In men's play, 2006 runner-up Rafael Nadal was one point from victory when he hit a forehand barely wide. His replay appeal was rejected, and his match with Robin Soderling was immediately halted by rain with the score 7-all in the third-set tiebreaker.

Play resumed but was stopped for the night with Nadal leading, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 4-6, 2-0. *AP*

THE WINNER HAS TWO FACES: One is the Serena Williams who looked in danger of not finishing her game after crumbling to the grass with muscle problems. The other was the triumphant Serena (right photo), who defied the injury—with a little help from the rain—to advance past Daniela Hantuchova. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
GRANDKORPHIL LANGUAGE CENTER INC. 3/F Fl. Korphil Bldg., 1229 Batangas St. cor. Zanzibar St., Makati City	Su-Jin An	Korean Teacher
GRANDKORPHIL LANGUAGE CENTER INC. 3/F Fl. Korphil Bldg., 1229 Batangas St. cor. Zanzibar St., Makati City	Jung Hee Park	Korean Teacher
KP PENCO CORPORATION No. 202, Grandkorphil Bldg., 1229 Batangas St. cor. Zanzibar St., Makati City	Hee Sun Kim (w/o Choi)	Director
KP PENCO CORPORATION No. 202, Grandkorphil Bldg., 1229 Batangas St. cor. Zanzibar St., Makati City	Byeongwoo Kim	Supervisor
SOUTH WEST LEARNING CENTER, INC. Unit 205 ALPAP II Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Chunghee Lee	Teacher
SOUTH WEST LEARNING CENTER, INC. Unit 205 ALPAP II Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Pyoung Soo Jang	Teacher
SOUTH WEST LEARNING CENTER, INC. Unit 205 ALPAP II Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Seonyoung Mun	Teacher
ILDAEIL-EDU, INC. 26/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Keumran Kim (wife of KIM)	Korean Customer Service Agent
ILDAEIL-EDU, INC. 26/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Eunsil Lee (w/o PARK)	Korean Customer Service Agent
ILDAEIL-EDU, INC. 26/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jung Eun Choi	Korean Customer Service Agent
ILDAEIL-EDU, INC. 26/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hyejin Seok	Korean Customer Service Agent
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yuki Awata	Civil Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Noriaki Kawaharada	Instrument Engineer
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JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tetsuya Ayukawa	Instrument Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tadashi Nagai	Engineering Manager
D' EXPERTS LTD. CO. Rm 605, 600 Sta. Elena St., Binondo, Manila	Yangzhong Shi	Marketing Manager
D' EXPERTS LTD. CO. Rm 605, 600 Sta. Elena St., Binondo, Manila	Yiqun Cai	Operation Manager
D' EXPERTS LTD. CO. Rm 605, 600 Sta. Elena St., Binondo, Manila	Lingling Hong	Assistant General Manager
HAUZEN TOUR & TRAVEL CORP. 2282 Coretown Bldg., P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Ext., Pasay City	Ji Young Kim	Sales Manager
HAUZEN TOUR & TRAVEL CORP. 2282 Coretown Bldg., P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Ext., Pasay City	Young Mi Hong	Marketing Manager
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TOP-DISH CAFETERIA 4890 Durban St., Poblacion, Makati City	Deoksun Hwang	Assistant Manager
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK Standard Chartered Bank Building, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Seow Pang Ng	Country Head of Global Markets
GLOBAL MACRO IMPORTEX, INC. Unit 601 Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer St. cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Chiwon Song	Sales Manager
CEEBIBI LANGUAGE CENTRE, INC. Unit 601 Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer Highlands, Pioneer St. cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	Yongtae Kim	Phone English Supervisor
MINAMI TSUSHOW CORPORATION 12A Irid St., Cubao, Quezon City	Minoru Yoshida	General Manager
E-WORLD TRAVEL & TOURS PHIL. CORP. 1005 Pearl of the Orient Tower, Roxas Blvd., Manila	Mingyoung Jang	Tour Operations Manager
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, No. 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ting-Yu Huang	Computer Programmer Senior Specialist
OPTIMA PLANT SERVICE CORP. 3/F AC Raftel Ctr., 8193 Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City	Hae Eun Cheong	SVP - Marketing & Sales
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, No. 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jian-Syu Chen	Risk Management Specialist
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, No. 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ming-Lung Chen	Risk Management Specialist
AOTEA RISK CONSULTANCY, INC. Unit 813 8/F, Peninsula Court, 8735 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	William Jeremy Cliff	Consultant
HITE INC. 109 Neptune St., Bel-Air, Makati City	Dong Jun Shin	Operation Manager
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILS.), INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Barbara Louise Rhode	Assistant Vice President - Operations
KYM IMPORT & EXPORT LTD. CO. Unit 3-A3 Juan Luna Plaza, 668 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Yuzhu Wu	Technical Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - July 4, 2007)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: (632) 840-1614-Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for CY2007 intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso Five Million Two Hundred Eighty One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six & 79/100 (Php5,281,136.79) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF PNOC EC BATANGAS COAL TERMINAL RORO RAMP BT07-050 (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Repair and Improvement of PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal RORO RAMP. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *July 13, 2007 @4:00 P.M at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (Php500.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on *July 17, 2007 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* on or before *3:00 P.M. of July 17, 2007*.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:30 A.M.* to *4:00 P.M* from *July 20, 2007*.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Php2,000.00 Pesos*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *July 24, 2007 @3:00 P.M.*

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *July 25, 2007 @9:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal, San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *2:00 P.M. of August 7, 2007*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Surety Bond* and in an amount of *Php132,028.42 Pesos*. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *August 7, 2007, at 2:15 P.M. in PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by *Ninety (90) Calendar Days*.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Note: PNOC EC (Manila) Cashier Transaction is from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

(PDI--July 4 & 8, 2007)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: (632) 840-1614 Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Five Million Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four and 36/100 Pesos (Php5,070,664.36) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the COMPANY'S MALANGAS COAL PROJECT'S LUMBOG SATELLITE COAL MINE MANPOWER SERVICES (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the manpower services contract of the Company's Malangas Coal Project's Lumbog Satellite Coal Mine located in Little Baguio, Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay Province. The contract duration for the Project is seven (7) months or upon completion of the Lumbog Satellite Mine, whichever comes first.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Ms. J. C. Fabian) starting July 4, 2007 at the PNOC EC Head Office located in Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).

For purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference shall be held on July 12, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City. Site inspection shall follow thereafter.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than ***10:00 A.M. on July 25, 2007*** Regional bidders, however, may submit their bids to the Superintendent of PNOC EC Malangas Coal Project, Mr. D. G. Gacutan, also on July 25, 2007 not later than 10:00 A.M. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The bids including the eligibility requirements shall be publicly opened on July 27, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the PNOC EC Head Office.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph, in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net, and at the July 4 and 8 issues of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JCF/BCB

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 4 & 8, 2007)

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

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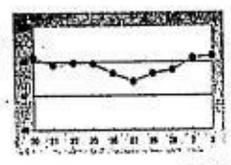

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As of 5 p.m., July 3, 2007

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SOFT DRINKS FIRM PEPSI-COLA PRODUCTS PHILIPPINES Inc. is going public with the sale of up to 1.14 billion old and new shares to raise P6.9 billion, a preliminary prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed.

The offer will consist of up to 380.78 million new shares and 761.57 million shares owned by Guoco Assets Philippines Inc., Hong Way Holdings Inc., The Nassim Fund and Orion Land Inc.

Guoco Assets holds 14.4 percent of Pepsi-Cola Philippines while PepsiCo has 32.9 percent; Hong Way Holdings, 25.89 percent; Nassim Fund, 17.6 percent, and Orion Land, 4.5 percent.

Pepsi-Cola Philippines is the licensed bottler of PepsiCo beverages in the Philippines. Its products include juices, iced teas, sports drinks and energy drinks. Its soft drinks and beverage brands include Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Pepsi Light, Pepsi Max, 7 Up, Mountain Dew

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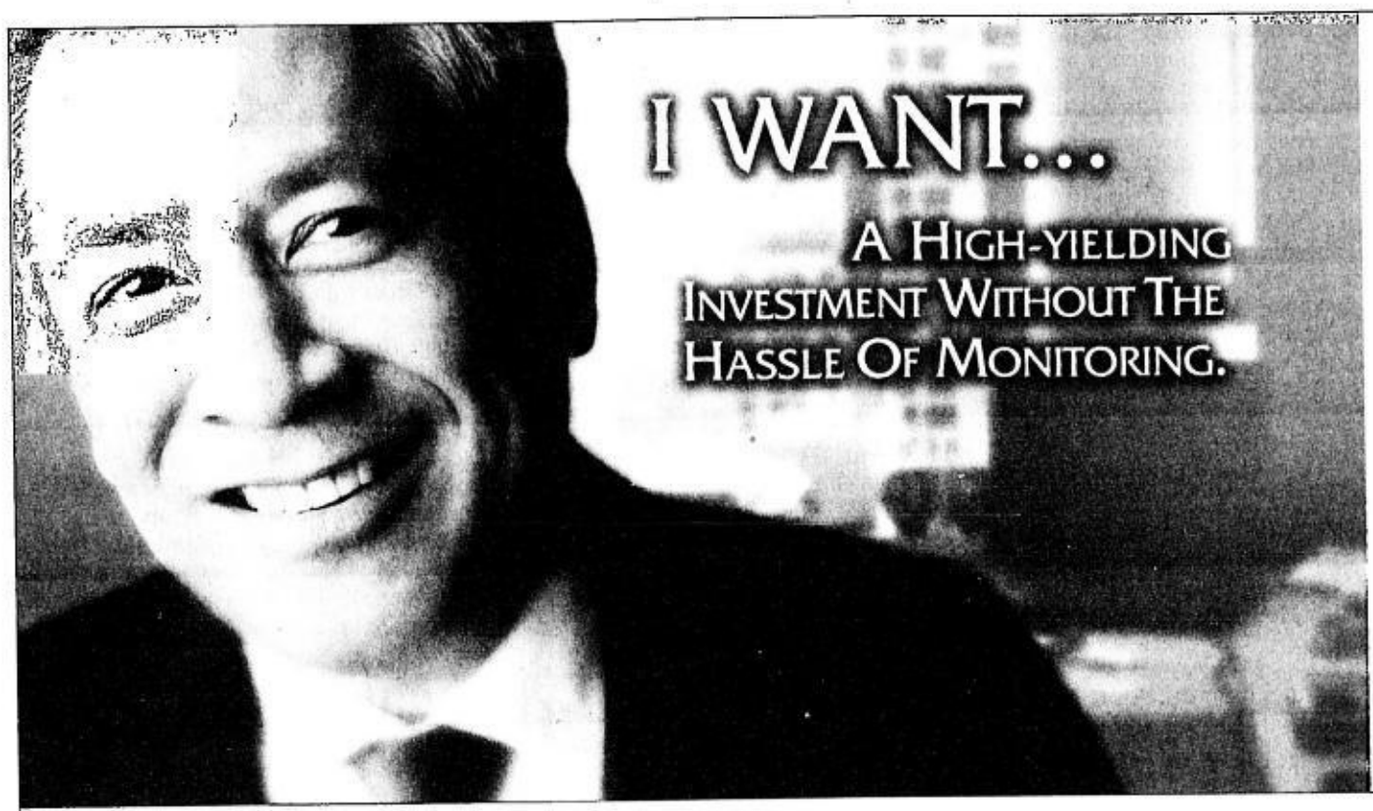

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BSP set to cut forex, inflation forecasts

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas (BSP) expects the average peso-dollar exchange rate to come in significantly stronger than the official government forecast for this year on the back of sustained inflows from abroad.

At the same time, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the central monetary authority would also review its full-year forecast for inflation—the rate of increase in the prices of goods and services—due to recent favorable developments.

Improved expectations for the exchange rate and the inflation rate would give the central bank leeway in maintaining the status quo of a finely balanced monetary stance, and stabilizing borrowing rates at present levels.

This would also mitigate upward pressures on the government's own benchmark interest rates, which have edged higher due to fears over tax collection shortfalls.

"The peso may come in between P47 to P48 [to $1]," Tetangco said, although he added that it would be unlikely for the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to reduce its own exchange rate target of P48 to P49 to a dollar.

The DBCC is the inter-agency group composed of Cabinet officials that sets the economic targets for the government each year.

Given present exchange rate trends, Tetangco said the full-year average may come in close to P47:$1, especially if the peso maintains its present level against the dollar for the rest of the second half.

"The average exchange rate for the first half is P47.70:$1, considering we came from a much weaker level early in the year," he said.

Tetangco said he was comforted by the fact that the peso had ceased its rapid appreciation against the dollar, but maintained that the central bank has no bias for either a strong or weak currency.

"My only stand is that any adjustment [in the exchange rate] should be gradual," he said.

The BSP chief said that the policy-making Monetary Board would review all the data when it convenes next week, including the inflation rate, which has so far come in significantly lower than expected.

Tetangco said that the central bank expected the full-year inflation rate to average between 3.3 and 3.8 percent—a forecast that could be cut further after next week's review.

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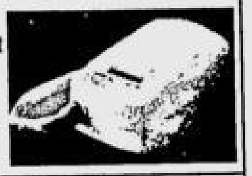
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A new star is born

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THREE YEARS AGO, I STARTLED READERS of the INQUIRER with an article entitled. "The hottest stock in town." It commenced, "Sell your house, sell your wife and children and invest the proceeds in Fil-Hispano," a totally unknown company. At first, they thought it was a joke but I wrote one of my most convincing reports stating that this was a backdoor listing into the call center industry and would have at least five years of rapid expansion. It changed its name to Paxys and has performed magnificently. Anyone who bought it and took up the rights has seen their investment grow by a factor of 10! And there is still more growth to come.

I believe I have now found another winner in the information technology sector—a sort of Paxys plus, because there is also the added attraction of free role-playing games in the Internet cafes. The new kid on the block is IPVG (Intellectual Property Ventures Group). The company is focused on three technology-based ventures that are in sunrise sectors of the global, regional and local economy. As more and more people go digital, they interact online on the Internet and use an ever-increasing variety of services that are becoming available. This fuels demand for further IP-communication and IP-based content.

IPVG is tripartite—that is to say it is divided into three separate business linked by the most advanced technology. The first business is a data center (IP-converge) that was designed and constructed by the region's leader, PCCW. It can offer premium services that other companies find hard to match and during the earthquake, which damaged the Asian Internet infrastructure six months ago, IPVG continued to operate normally while other Internet providers either ceased functioning or ran very slowly. It is believed that a major telco had to source bandwidth from IPVG. A second data center is in the process of being built and with the Internet growing at 35 percent a year, the data center industry should grow at a similar rate.

The second business, which will probably appeal more to readers and certainly to their teenage children is I.P.E. Game Ventures, the No. 1 online game publisher in the Philippines. Online gaming is a world phenomenon and even I play bridge, backgammon and poker against the computer. However, this form of online gaming, which is role-playing based, has absolutely no gambling content, and takes place in a virtual world in which hundreds of thousands of players can interact in cyberspace. Teenagers flock to the Internet cafes to play role-playing games in which they can act out their fantasies. Mine is to catch Jessica Alba.

The virtual world is always there and constitutes a social network. The games are free but in order to participate, it is necessary to purchase accessories such as a sword and body armor in order to combat monsters. This is good because teenagers spend as much or as little as they can afford. IPE Games does not develop games, a risky business, but buys them from regional partners such as Infocomm Asia Holdings with whom it has signed a strategic partnership. RAN Online is currently the No. 1 game but there is also a wide choice of other popular games.

In the Philippines, there are already 4 million registered players and this number is expected to rise over the next few years to 10 million. We are just about to overtake all other Asian countries in terms of growth in online gaming and this sector is growing at about 40 percent a year. With IPE Games having access to the most successful titles, they expect to capture half of this rapidly growing market. The numbers quoted could easily be exceeded if the number of Internet cafes grow, as seems likely.

Lastly, IPVG has partnered with PCCW, which operates seven contact centers across Asia with over 6,000 seats. The call center industry, which has expanded its services to include medical transcription and many other services, is expected to expand from 185,000 seats in 2006 to 500,000 seats by 2010 so there is still plenty of growth in the pipeline. The Philippines is the preferred hub of North American English customer-support services because they tend to speak American English, have a good knowledge of American culture through films and TV, and costs are low. The revenue per seat per year ranges from $15,000 to $25,000 depending on the origin or destination of the call. The major expenses are rent, labor and training. Margins are 12 to 20 percent and the business can be scaled up very quickly.

IPPCO, its subsidiary, plans to reach several thousand seats over the next 2 to 3 years and has just made a disclosure to the PSE. It has just acquired the assets of Global Stride, a 260-seater contact center located in Libis. Global Stride handles both inbound and outbound campaigns for North American clients. It shareholders include H&Q and the Ayala group (through Azalea International Venture Partners). This is just the first of a planned list of acquisitions and brings IPPCO's total seats to 350.

I have made some profit projections as I did successfully with Paxys. These are my guesstimates based on investor briefings. For the current year, earnings per share (EPS) should be around 39 centavos for a P/E of 20. This is higher than the 16 P/E on the index, which contains a number of companies growing at a pedestrian 10 percent a year. IPVG is growing at 50 percent a year so a P/E of 25 is not unreasonable and this would indicate a price target of P10. The only comparable company (Indian) is SIFY—whose ADR's sell on a P/E of 80. For next year, I estimate that the EPS will be 63 centavos and a price target of P15.75 and for 2009, the EPS should be in the region of 94 centavos for a 2-year price target of P23.50. Strangely enough, growth should accelerate in 2010 and 2011 because all expenditure will have been completed and cash flow will increase dramatically.

The shares have made a chart breakout due to the disclosure, which is unfortunate but could not have been foreseen. If you are going to buy shares as I have done, hold them for the long term, as you will make far more money doing that than by taking a quick profit. Remember that Paxys has risen 10-fold in three years. IPVG is starting from a small base so it still has great long-term potential. The only risks are a collapsing global economy, a very strong peso or political instability and I do not foresee any of these events happening. The management team is young and full of enthusiasm. They are so knowledgeable that I think they must have been born in cyberspace.

nathan.ronald@gmail.com

Local ...

From page B1

Gatorade, Lipton Iced Tea, Tropicana, Propel and Sting.

In 2006, it sold 110 million eight-ounce equivalents of carbonated beverages and 10 million eight-ounce equivalent cases of non-carbonated beverages.

It also manufactures and packages products at 11 production plants nationwide and distribute them through 106 sales offices and warehouses.

Pepsi-Cola Philippines estimated that total proceeds would amount to P6.9 billion, assuming an initial public offer price of P6.04 a share, the midpoint of its estimated price range. The offer price has yet to be set.

Of the expected proceeds, about P2.29 billion will be raised by the company from the sale of primary shares after deducting certain expenses.

As of the nine-month period ending March 31 this year, Pepsi-Cola Philippines' net income amounted to P501 million, a decline of 21 percent from the same period in 2006. The company's fiscal year ends on June 30.

The company has tapped UBS Investment Bank as its sole international underwriter.

Pepsi-Cola Philippines' IPO application came as the local stock market surged to a new all-time high yesterday, with the Philippine Stock Exchange's main price index rising 60.3 points or 1.63 percent to 3,751.99, beating the previous record of 3,718.88 set last June 20.

"This is a reaction to the overnight gains on Wall Street. The market also chose to ignore for the moment the rise in interest rates," PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro said.

The government's key borrowing rate shot up during Monday's treasury bills auction as banks—rattled by weak tax collections—sought higher returns on their funds.

The rate for 91-day bills jumped to 3.477 percent, an increase of almost half a percentage point from the previous rate of 2.996 percent.

The US stock market also rose overnight on robust US manufacturing data, while the mood across Asia was lifted by a spate of US takeover activity.

Among regional markets, Tokyo's Nikkei average rose 0.3 percent, South Korea's benchmark KOSPI climbed 1.1 percent to a one-week high, and on Wall Street, blue-chip stocks ended nearly 1 percent higher while the tech-laden Nasdaq Composite Index added 1.1 percent.

Year-to-date, the local stock market has gained 25.8 percent or 769.45 points.

Total trades yesterday hit P5.96 billion with 106 gainers against 24 losers.

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Park Square Drive cor. Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City
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METRO MANILA
ANGONO, RIZAL
KGP_RZL001 RSDL LOT
LA. 894 sqm.(Near Pareb Sch)
MISSION HILLS, Brgy. Muzon
Min. Bid Price: P 2,393,475 (+VAT)

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL
KGP_RZL002 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 213 FA. 82
Cotton Drive (Near ASSUMPTION)
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,066,400

CALOOCAN
KGP_CAL003 RSDL LOT
L.A 470 sqm (Near Sampaguita Subd.)
SHELTERVILLE SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 630,000

LAS PIÑAS
KGP_LSP005 2-COMM'L BLDG
LA. 594 sqm. FA. 144 sqm & 120 sqm.
(Near Jollibee or Merced Drugstore)
BRGY ALABANG ZAPOTE ROAD
Min. Bid Price: P 7,733,880 (+VAT)

MAKATI
KGP_MKT007 COMM'L / RSDL CONDO
PRAISE CONDOMINIUM
Santillian St. (near Makati Cinema Square)

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price	
144.307sqm	P 2,186,415	(+VAT)
155.497sqm	P 2,355,990	(+VAT)
255.003sqm	P 3,863,685	(+VAT)
255.003sqm	P 3,863,685	(+VAT)

MANILA
KGP_MNL008 RSDL CONDO
(Near Robinsons Place Manila)
IMPERIAL BAYFRONT TOWER
Mabini St. Malate

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
28.20sqm	P 945,000
29.36sqm	P 997,500
29.40sqm	P 997,500

KGP_MNL009 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 172 sqm. FA. 100 sqm.
CLEMENTE ST. Gagalangin Tondo
(Near ER Gravel & Sand)
Min. Bid Price: P 1,225,980

ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG
KGP_PSG011 OFFICE CONDO w/ PRKG
F.A 86.17 sqm. (Near Shangrila Mall)
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CONDO
San Miguel Avenue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,255,448 29 (+VAT)

PARANAQUE
KGP_PRQ012 HOUSE & LOT
LA 517 sqm. FA. 294.75 sqm.
(Near EPCI Bank)
Mahogany St., UNITED HILLS 2
Min. Bid Price: P 2,625,000 (+VAT)

KGP_PRQ013 HOUSE & LOT
LA.409 sqm FA. 173 sqm
(Near SM BICUTAN - MERVILLE.)
Tulip Cor.Pine Street
EXECUTIVE SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 3,885,000 (+VAT)

KGP_PRQ014 RSD'L CONDO
FA:105 sqm. (Near Eduarosa Tower)
BAYVIEW TOWER 1, Roxas Blvd.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,469,600

KGP_PRQ015 3-DOOR UNFINISHED APARTMENT
L.A.131.75 sqm. (Near Maharlika Ave.)
Santol St. MARCELO GREEN VILL.
Brgy. Green Marcelo Green
Min. Bid Price: P 553,350

KGP_PRQ016 RSDL LOT
LA. 127.25 sqm.
Santol St., (near SM Bicutan)
MARCELO GREEN VILL. Phase 4,
Min. Bid Price: P457,681

KPG_PRQ062 5-STRY CONDO
(SCHOOL BLDG)
L.A. / F.A. PLS. CALL
LA QUINTA CONDOMINIUM
Brgy. Ibayo (near Merville Subd)
Min. Bid Price: P10,747,800

QUEZON CITY
KGP_QCL020 COMML CONDO
FA. 54.04 sqm (Near Gateway Mall)
REGALIA PARK TOWER
BP Tuazon, Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,402,400 (+VAT)

KGP_QCL063 3-OFFICE COMPLEX
LA. 2,183 sqm. FA. 3,580 sqm.
(Near MRT Cubao Station)
E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. cor. MONTE DE PIEDAD ST. Brgy. Immaculate Concepción, Cubao
Min. Bid Price: P87,616,200 (+VAT)

SAN JUAN
KGP_SJ064 OFFICE BLDG
L.A. 490 sqm. F.A. 185 sqm.
N. Domingo Ave. (near SM Sta. Mesa)
Min. Bid Price: P9,240,000 (+VAT)

TAGUIG
KGP_TAG029 RSDL CONDO
FA. 44 sqm. (Near St. Anne Parish)
HAMILTON CONDO. BLDG Phase II
Lakeview, Manors Condominium
Bagong Calzada Bo.Ususan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,000

LUZON
BENGUET
Text 09185328111
KGP_BGT030 RSDL LOT
LA 494 sqm (Near Balatok Road)
VISTA VERDE HEIGHTS, Bo. Virac Itogon
Min. Bid Price: P 210,000

KGP_BGT031 RSDL LOT
LA.5,000 sqm.(Near Apugan Elem. Sch)
Barrio Población, Tuba
Min. Bid Price: P 866,250

KGP_BGT017 RSDL CONDO
FA:152.311sqm.
AMVILLE COURT TOWNHOUSE
Justice Village, Bakakeng, Baguio City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,108,532

BATANGAS
KGP_BAT032 2-STRY COMM'L BLDG.
(2 function rms, 8 comm'l units.10 parking)
L.A. 1,782 sqm. FA. 1,009sqm.
(Near SM and Robinsons Lipa and at the back of the Lipa Cathedral)
G.A. SOLIS ST. Brgy. Poblacion, Lipa
Min. Bid Price: P 12,600 ,000 (+VAT)

KGP_BAT033 3-STRY SCHOOL BLDG. & 1 STRY H.E. & CLINIC BLDG.
L.A. 1, 113 sqm. FA. 2,765 sqm.
(Near Tanauan Mun. Hall)
N. GONZALES ST.,
Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Tanuan
Min. Bid Price: P 9,679,950 (+VAT)

CAVITE
KGP_CVT036 RSDL LOT
LA 524 sqm (Near Mla. Southwoods Est.)
Cypress Point St.,MANILA SOUTHWOODS PH 3, Bgy. Baybay, Carmona
Min Bid Price: P 3,581,655 (+VAT)

KGP_CVT037 RSDL LOT
LA 592 sqm (Near SM City Dasma)
CITYVIEW DASMA. III SUBD.
Brgy. Malinta
Min Bid Price: P 693,000

KGP_CVT038 RSDL LOT
LA 523 sqm
STATELAND SUBD., PH 1
Bgy. Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Min Bid Price: P 395,388

LAGUNA
KGP_LGN042 RSDL LOT
LA 841 sqm.(Near South Peak Subd.)
Bo. San Vicente, SAN PEDRO
Min. Bid Price: P 441,000

VISAYAS
CAPIZ
Text 09206186282
KGP_CPZ048 AGRI LOT W/ FISHPOND
LA. 381,472 sqm
Brgy. Manapao, PONTAVEDRA
Min. Bid Price: P 4,866,629 (+VAT)

CEBU
Text 09266256957
KGP_CEB065 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,145 sqm.
Tayud, Lilo-an
Min Bid Price: P 2,175,390

MINDANAO
DAVAO
Text 09219703112
KGP_DAV056 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 781 sqm F.A. 200 sqm.
Ilang Ilang Ph1
PANORAMA HOMES SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,382,659 (+VAT)

GENERAL SANTOS
Text 09267666746
KGP_GSC057 RSDL LOT
LA 6,824 sqm.
Bo. Bula (Near Socsargen Country Hosp.)
Min. Bid Price: P 2,866,080 (+VAT)

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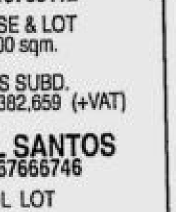
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NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 20, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - July 21, 2006
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

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ESTRELLA S. ANDRES
2007-2008 National Secretary

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The ME adopts the **Guru Approach** wherein AIM professors serve as gurus who will guide, mentor, critique and motivate the entrepreneur on the road to success.

THE GURUS

Professor Danilo A. Antonio, is a member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program. Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives in the Master in Business Administration Program. Prof. Antonio remains active in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University.

Professor Alejandrino J. Ferreria Ed.D, is the Bank of America Foundation Professor of Business Management at AIM. From 2002 to 2004, he was the Dean of the AIM Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. Prior to his career in AIM, he also held senior executive positions at Guevarra Enterprises (Guevent), and helped form Unifoods International Corporation (post-mix distributor of Pepsi-Cola). Prof. Ferreria, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Ateneo de Manila and an MBA from the University of the Philippines, currently sits on the boards of Goodyear Philippines, Pascual Laboratories, Construction Mgmt. & Dev't. Foundation, Filipino Car Foundation, and Channel Technologies.

Professor Tomas B. Lopez is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness at AIM, and AIM's Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. A graduate of AIM's Master in Management program (with Distinction), his areas of specialization include Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and Information Technology. He is President and CEO of the Club Noah Group of Companies operating the world-famous Club Noah-Isabelle in Northern Palawan. He is co-founder of Seair, an airline serving tourist destinations in Palawan, Surigao and Boracay, currently serves as President of the University of Makati.

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Audi triumphs at Le Mans

Le Mans, France, 17 June 2007 - 2007 is a banner year for Audi as the German car completely dominates the field for the seventh time in what is known to be the hardest race in the world, the Le Mans 24 Hours.

Audi AG has yet again made an impressive victory in the Le Mans 24-Hour race despite the extremely difficult conditions. Frank Biela (Germany), Emanuele Pirro (Italy) and Marco Werner (Germany) repeated their success like last year, thus giving Audi their seventh victory in the French endurance classic. For the second consecutive time, the Audi R10 TDI claimed victory. The revolutionary diesel sports car from Ingolstadt remains unbeaten.

In the 75th edition of the Le Mans 24 Hours race, Audi again gave an impressive proof of "Vosprung durch Technik". The Audi R10 TDI was the fastest and the most reliable car in the field.

A record number of spectators witnessed one of the most exciting 24-hour races in the history of Le Mans. Changing weather conditions at the beginning claimed the Audi R10 TDI with start number three when Mike Rockenfeller left the rain-soaked track on his third lap and collided backwards into the Armco barriers.

After having controlled the race with a considerable margin for more than 16 hours, Dindo Capello's left rear wheel of his Audi R10 TDI loosened on Sunday morning. On the other hand, Le Mans record winner

From left to right: Frank Biela (Germany), Emanuele Pirro (Italy) and Marco Werner (Germany) posing with excitement as they bagged the 75th Le Mans 24 Hours title

Tom Kristensen and Allan McNish came to a premature end as well. Thus, during the last five-and-a-half hours, all hopes for Audi were left on the shoulders of Audi R10 TDI with start number one of Frank Biela, Emanuele Pirro and Marco Werner. Conditions were extremely difficult due to pouring rain in the final phases of the race. However, the established Audi drivers mastered and took this kind of matter boldly.

The impressive winning margin of Marco Werner over the second-placed Peugeot was ten laps at the finish line - this made the 7th Le Mans triumph. Now Audi has moved up to the 3rd place in the historic records during the 75th edition of the French endurance classic because only Porsche and Ferrari have won at Le Mans more often than Audi. With this win, a date with history is now just a cinch away for Audi.

TDI Technology benefits Audi owners

That Audi is the world's first automobile manufacturer to compete for overall victory at the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans with a diesel engine and is, as a result, a step ahead of the competition is almost self-explanatory: Audi is the inventor of the TDI and therefore the trend setter in this area.

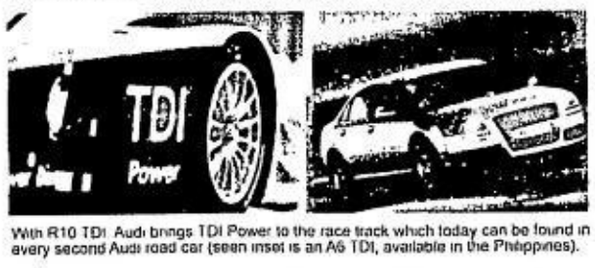
At the 1989 Frankfurt Motorshow, Audi presented the world's first diesel engine with direct injection and complete electronic engine management for use in passenger cars – a five-cylinder TDI producing 120 hp and 265 Newton meters torque. It was the birth of the revolutionary TDI technology which helped the diesel to change its image: Slow, loud and uncultivated were superseded by agile, comfortable and extremely economical. The Audi TDI brought the opposites of sporting-dynamic and long-range through low consumption in an emotional way down to a common denominator, without neglecting the diesel's exceptional reputation: its long life.

Audi customers benefit from motorsport

With the V12 TDI for Le Mans, Audi demonstrates impressively just how much potential TDI technology has. The Audi customers will once again benefit from the experience gained in motorsport as they did from the R8 and the quattro models.

Every second Audi is a TDI

Today every second Audi is delivered with



With R10 TDI Audi brings TDI Power to the race track which today can be found in every second Audi road car (seen inset is an A6 TDI, available in the Philippines).

a TDI engine – the outlook is bright. Audi has constantly set new technical standards during the development ofstandards during the development of the TDI engines over the last 16 years. The current highlight is the Audi V8 4.2 TDI quattro with 326 hp and 650 Newton meters torque one of the most powerful compression ignition engines found in a production limousine – an all this whilst complying with EU 4 emission limits and with an average fuel consumption of 9.4 liters per 100 kilometers.

Greater forces than in Formula 1

The heart of the Audi R10 TDI is a V12 TDI engine, which has the maximum permissible capacity of 5.5 liters allowed at Le Mans. With over 650 hp and more than 1100 Newton meters torque, Audi breaks new ground for Diesel engines. This makes enormous demands of the R10 TDI transmission system. Due to the higher torque values, the forces acting on the transmission are far greater than those seen in a Formula 1 race car. The gear box had to be designed in much the same way as the driveshafts and the new ceramic clutch. No more than five forward gears are required owing to the turbo diesel engine's characteristics. The reduced number of gear shifts is an essential factor with regard to durability, since the transmission is subject to extremely-high loads at Le Mans.

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Dollar deposits rose in May

Net month-on-month increase hits $142M

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE AMOUNT OF US DOLLARS lodged with the domestic banking system continued to increase in May as more foreigners brought in their assets to participate in the surging financial markets.

In a press statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said deposit liabilities in banks' foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) stood at $18.29 billion as of the end of May 2007.

This represented a 0.8-percent increase from the previous month's level of $18.148 billion.

"The month-on-month net increase of $142 million was mainly attributed to the rise in nonresident deposits," the central bank said.

FCDUs are units of banks that handle transactions in foreign currencies, including loans and deposits. Deposits in FCDUs serve as a form of secondary reserves—a source of foreign exchange—on top of the dollar stash kept by the central bank.

According to the BSP, the latest level is $2.179 billion higher than the $16.111 billion reported a year ago, representing an increase of 13.5 percent.

At the end of 2006, the combined assets of FCDUs of the banking industry reached an all-time high of $23.59 billion in 2006, rising by 13.8 percent from year-ago level.

This had surpassed the prior peak of $21.7 billion set in 1997. A major component of the FCDU assets of banks is investments, including those in the form of securities. Of last years FCDU assets, investments accounted for $11.268 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 12.7 percent.

Generali keeps insurance licenses

By Michelle V. Remo

GENERALI PILIPINAS HOLDING CO. INC., whose life and nonlife insurance arms were earlier reported to be under-capitalized, was assured that its member-firms will keep their insurance licenses as regulators finally recognized the holding company's recent capital infusion.

In a statement, the Insurance Commission said Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Co. Inc. and Generali Pilipinas Insurance Co. were already fully compliant with the capitalization requirements for 2006.

Based on the 2006 capitalization requirements imposed by the Insurance Commission, the two firms were supposed to each have at least P200 million worth of capital. The Insurance Commission said the recent infusion brought the capital of the two firms to more than P300 million each.

"The Insurance Commission admitted the companies' funds in escrow, which, together with the additional capital infusion made by the stockholders, raised both insurers' respective net worth to over P300 million, which was higher the minimum required by the commission," the agency said in the statement.

Generali Pilipinas is a joint venture between the group of Italian insurance firm Assisurazioni Generali and Jerneh Berhad Asia, and Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Last month, the Insurance Commission named 15 insurance companies whose capitalization below the requirements for 2006. The names included the life and nonlife arms of Generali.

Generali, however, said it had already infused additional capital into its life and nonlife insurance arms even prior to the announcement of the new requirement. The problem was just the timing, Generali said, as documents pertaining to its capital infusion were still in the process of being confirmed.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said that under-capitalized insurance firms that would not be able to pour in additional funds faced suspension of their licenses. She said strictly implementing the capitalization requirements for insurance firms was necessary to ensure the financial health of the industry for the benefit of the consumers.

NTT seen raising stake in PLDT

By Riza T. Olchondra

JAPAN'S NTT DOCOMO MAY INCREASE ITS share in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. despite its aborted deal with Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. to jointly buy the government's indirect stake in the telco.

First Pacific is currently negotiating with NTT to buy some of the PLDT shares that the Hong Kong conglomerate acquired this year, First Pacific managing director and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan told reporters on the sidelines of the MVP Leadership Forum at the Ateneo de Manila University on Tuesday.

In March, First Pacific bought the government's 6.4-percent indirect stake in PLDT, which were held by Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp., for P25.2 billion. First Pacific originally planned to purchase the stake together with DoCoMo, then split it equally between the two companies. The Japanese firm backed out of the plan amid controversies on the constitutionality of the sale.

The additional 6.4-percent stake has a current market value of P30 billion. NTT would have to fork out about P12 billion for less than half of the stake.

"In principle, we (want) to stick with the original amount," said Pangilinan, who is also chair of PLDT. "Hopefully the discussions will finish by yearend."

As to the percentage of shares to be sold to NTT DoCoMo, Pangilinan said "Probably less than 50 percent. We need to keep the majority of the shares."

First Pacific owns 23 percent of PLDT. NTT, in the meantime, reported in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission dated June 27 that it had a 15.5-percent stake in PLDT. In a filing dated April 16, NTT Corp. reported a 14.5-percent stake in PLDT.

As for PLDT's performance, Pangilinan said its second-quarter results were better than the same period in 2006 and even better than the first quarter of this year.

Aside from PLDT, the First Pacific group is busy with acquisition plans for a new telco and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.'s bid for the Manila North Harbor contract.

How's your English?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE DEBATE OVER THE GOVernment's plan to put back English as the medium of instruction in public schools has reached the Supreme Court. A group of do-gooders called Wika has filed a petition to block the plan. It even put up a small public demonstration in front of the Supreme Court, dutifully recorded on national TV.

I do not much care if the case is *sub judice*. I am wading into the debate.

I have not read the petition. But, as reported in the press, the reasons put forth in the petition were nothing new.

First, Wika claims the plan is antipoor. Kids from poor families are not raised to speak English and are therefore at a disadvantage. The disadvantage will only be temporary. The poor kids will catch up soon enough. In the end, the bright ones, poor or rich, will rise above the rest. The important thing is for the poor kids to have equal access to high quality education, with English as the teaching medium.

Second, Wika claims the Filipino will lose his heritage. I am not sure what this means. I am a Bicolano. Like all Bicolanos I know who have transplanted themselves in Metro Manila, I speak Tagalog and English most of the day, week in and out. We have never lost our Bicolano heritage: Strong family ties, a wonderful sense of humor, deep religiosity, a fervent devotion to the Virgin of Penafrancia.

Third, Wika claims the plan is unconstitutional. Not being a lawyer, much less a constitutionalist, I will leave this issue to Fr. Joaquin Bernas to tackle.

Surely, everybody agrees that, in this day and age, to have a good command of oral and written English is desirable.

But English is a very difficult language to master. The late Rev. Francis D. Burns opened Ateneo de Naga in 1939. When he arrived in Naga, he had already taught in Ateneo de Manila for about seven years before. He had his own ideas about teaching English. He established the English rule in Naga: As soon as a student stepped in campus, he was to speak nothing but English. If a classmate hears him speak in the dialect, he was to be reported for punishment. Fr. Burns believed that forcing the student to speak English was the best way to learn the language. Believe me, it worked. We learned.

Today, when Congressman Tupas of Cebu pushes the use of English as the medium of instruction from second grade in public schools, in spite of the Wika petition, he follows in the footsteps of Fr. Burns.

We must give the Filipino the communication skills in written and oral English to succeed in this era of information technology.

Take the insurance industry. Fifty years ago, an agent could make a good living with just enough command of English to get along. Today, the agent is always a college graduate.

If a Filipino has a desk job in an insurance office, he has to be proficient in English. All insurance policies, the Insurance Code, the implementing rules and regulations of the Insurance Commission and the jurisprudence are all in English. Business is done in oral and written English, domestically and internationally.

Countries in the region are desperately teaching English to their populations. China has imported one million English teachers. India has a specially designed crash course for their citizens. South Koreans stay in the Philippines for a couple of years to learn English.

We are way ahead of everybody. Ever since the American colonizers sent over a shipload of teachers on the transport Thomas a hundred years ago, we have been grappling with the nuances of the English language.

As a result, we are the third largest English-speaking country in the whole world, next only to the United States and the United Kingdom. Why should we lose this edge?

Finally, haven't you noticed that the debate is being conducted by the participants, including Wika, in perfect English? *(More next week.)*

CURRENCIES

July 3, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.733945	1.000000	45.9960
Japan	Yen	0.005996	0.008170	0.3758
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480807	2.017600	92.8015
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093909	0.127951	5.8852
Switzerland	Franc	0.606215	0.825968	37.9912
Canada	Dollar	0.695287	0.947329	43.5733
Singapore	Dollar	0.482098	0.656858	30.2128
Australia	Dollar	0.629996	0.858369	39.4815
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.947010	2.652801	122.0182
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195698	0.266638	12.2643
Brunei	Dollar	0.480519	0.654707	30.1139
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023138	0.031526	1.4501
UAE	Dirham	0.199833	0.272272	12.5234
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.362500	62.6696
Korea	Won	0.000796	0.001085	0.0499
China	Yuan**	0.096512	0.131498	6.0484
Argentina	Peso	0.237599	0.323729	14.8902
Brazil	Real	0.383662	0.522739	24.0439
Denmark	Kroner	0.134380	0.183093	8.4215
India	Rupee	0.018158	0.024740	1.1379
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213853	0.291375	13.4021
Mexico	New Peso	0.068261	0.093006	4.2779
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573798	0.781800	35.9597
South Africa	Rand	0.105399	0.143606	6.6053
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022401	0.030522	1.4039

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 2, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 2, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 3, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12	12	12	31,200
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	72.5	73	71.5	72	811,200
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	71.5	72	70.5	71.5	1,647,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	915	915	910	915	1,880
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	6,320,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	73	74.5	73	74	1,202,800
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	60	62	60	62	384,100
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	65	65	65	65	2,000
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	35.5	35.5	34.5	34.5	434,600
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	86	87.5	86	87	204,100
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	63	62	62.5	546,900
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	599,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.14	1.2	765,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	12	507,300
8.8	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	9,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Hldg Corp.	1.22	1.34	1.18	1.28	5,054,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	2,100
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,680.00	1,660.00	1,680.00	1,920
5	4.05	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.35	2,090,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	326,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	845	855	845	850	4,290
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,165.00	2,180.00	2,165.00	2,180.00	1,580
1.94	1.2	Vantage Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.84	538,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67.5	66.5	67.5	1,075,600
91.5	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	91	91.5	90	91	658,400
13.25	7.3	Manila Water Company Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	13,873,500
116	14.5	Manila Electric Company A	113	116	113	114	346,280
118	22	Manila Electric Company B	116	117	114	116	1,884,720
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	6,854,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.7	6	5.7	5.8	30,339,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev'l Corp.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.52	2,273,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	284,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.24	2.28	535,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	30,000
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	54	53	53	537,000
7.3	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	108,000
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.66	447,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.95	2.75	2.95	2,587,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	73.5	74.5	73.5	73.5	130,600
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	83.5	82.5	83	690,600
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.44	0.52	0.44	0.5	2,140,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	1,186,800
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.34	0.41	0.34	0.38	3,230,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.41	EEI Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	2,269,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	130,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	85,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Hldg Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,090,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	748,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	17,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	7,840,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	151,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	69,790,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	12,850,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	1.8	2.2	1.8	2	940,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	191,400,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,500,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.6	49,168,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	107,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.8	6	50,136,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Cons Resources Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	313,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.46	2.32	2.44	3,862,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4	4	4	31,000
590	304.17	Ayala Corp.	550	555	550	550	715,360
13.5	6.96	Bacnotan Cons Industries Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	2,400
6.9	0.7	Balabac Res and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.45	4.55	73,000
5.6	1.02	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.3	17,854,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.4	9.5	525,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Princ.e Holdings Corp. A	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	47,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	5,980,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	570,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	161,200
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.48	0.44	0.44	850,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.78	0.7	0.78	70,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	21.25	22.5	21.25	21.75	1,118,400
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	7.7	8.4	7.7	8.4	8,746,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	187,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	44,700,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.5	0.57	0.5	0.55	7,750,000
1.92	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	25,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	445	452.5	445	450	206,270
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.58	34,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.54	0.57	0.52	0.55	21,930,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.88	0.79	0.8	680,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	80,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.33	0.34	12,890,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.61	0.65	1,300,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Company Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	175,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.76	0.76	1,710,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	41,237,900
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	7,331,000
4.7	1.96	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.6	4.45	4.6	271,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
2.1	1.12	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
0.85	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.76	0.79	0.75	0.77	5,890,000
0.83	0.17	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.53	8,260,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	220,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.87	0.84	0.86	32,650,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Res and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	11,900,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.14	12,945,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.2	2.16	2.16	64,374,000
0.41	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	7,830,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	4,180,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	3,600,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.9	2,200,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.1	23,082,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	14,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.41	0.43	7,160,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.67	4,630,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.2	163,000
23	10.25	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20	19.5	20	3,010,100
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	1,668,000
13	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.5	13	12.25	12.75	12,951,600
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.9	0.98	0.9	0.96	6,790,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	5,920,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.8	2,161,000
		MEDIA					
34	15	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32.5	31	32	1,[illegible]
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,270,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,355.00	1,405.00	1,350.00	1,400.00	239,880
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,655.00	2,715.00	2,655.00	2,700.00	339,460
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.1	6.9	7	5,407,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	16,500,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	117,300
8.4	2	IPVG Corp.	7.2	8.4	7.2	8.4	20,754,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.048	0.046	0.046	99,200,000
23	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	21	22.5	18.5	22.5	195,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	527,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.12	30,600,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.68	1.64	1.68	57,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	113,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc.	2.1	2.42	2.1	2.42	21,962,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	1,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	70,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	1,541,200
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.02	2.02	2	2	885,000
1.8	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.6	422,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.68	0.69	2,920,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	50,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	2,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	12,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	27	27	27	27	1,000
5.3	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.85	1,968,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15	15.25	15	15.25	752,300
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	24.25	24.25	24	24	20,500
110	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	100	100	100	100	500
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	42,500,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	85,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	116,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	1,578,700
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	23,700
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	64,000
3.05	0.0646	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.5	2.65	2.5	2.6	15,923,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	54,570,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	16,390,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	65,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.034	22,500,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	276,100,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	3,960,000
31	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30.5	30	30	138,400
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	880,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.34	6,131,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,490,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	200,400,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	41,800,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.5	10	10.5	58,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.023	396,700,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

DOF tightens watch on TCC fraud

Cases of false tax credit claims seen to drop

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FInance said that, before the end of the month, processes involved in verifying applications for tax credit certificates will already be electronic—a move that will improve the government's capacity to detect fraudulent tax credit claims.

Ernesto Hiansen, director of the DOF's One Stop Shop Duty and Drawback Center (OSS), said that under the computerization project, his office would be linking its database to other government agencies—such as the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Securities and Exchange Commission—which would serve as third parties to confirm the veracity of applications.

Currently, verification is done manually—the length of the approval process depends on how fast the agencies respond to the verification request.

Hiansen noted that the OSS has already conducted several measures to address tax-credit related revenue losses in the past.

These measures include the recently concluded revalidation of previously issued TCCs. The exercise resulted in the uncovering of some P2.7 billion worth of fraudulent TCCs.

Under the revalidation, all TCC holders were asked to turn over their documents to the DOF for revalidation of their authenticity. The DOF said P2.7 billion worth of TCCs were not submitted for revalidation either because these are fraudulently secured or fake.

Also, the official said that other government agencies involved in the granting of tax privileges should be on guard because tax syndicates might simply shift from TCCs to another medium.

Hiansen noted that exporters have three choices to avail themselves of the duty-free privilege granted by the government.

One is through the tax credit system, another is through operating a customs bonded warehouse, and the last is by operating within an economic zone.

"Some unscrupulous people may simply go where monitoring is less strict," Hiansen said in an interview. "If we make the monitoring of the TCCs more stringent, then they may find other means to continue earning from their illegal activities.

Hiansen noted that the amount of TCCs issued by his office averaged at P2.9 billion a year from 1998 to 2006. The figure is a substantial drop from the average of P12 billion a year.

The drop followed the implementation of stricter monitoring of TCC applications to get rid of fraudulent claims of tax credits.

Gov't to beef up disaster response for affected grids

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINistration's Task Force Kapatid, a program that helps fast-track the rehabilitation of distribution lines in times of calamities and disasters, will get more government support to ensure that residents of affected areas will not suffer too much from loss of electricity.

NEA administrator Edita Bueno said President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had met with various government agencies to discuss the ongoing rehabilitation of the Bicol Region—an area which is almost always hit by every typhoon that comes into the country.

NEA's Task Force Kapatid has also been institutionalized to speed up its response time in restoring power in calamity-stricken areas, with the cooperation of the country's 119 electric cooperatives.

The program last year helped accelerate the reconstruction and rehabilitation of distribution lines severely damaged by super typhoons "Reming" and "Senyang" in Albay, Camarines Sur, Oriental Mindoro and Marinduque, as well as "Milenyo" in Pampanga, Albay and Sorsogon.

Shortly after the typhoons struck, 73 electric cooperatives from Luzon and Visayas fielded 400 engineers and linemen to help in the rehabilitation effort in those areas.

Also, Bueno had ordered electric cooperatives nationwide to each come up with their own disaster preparedness plans.

To further ensure steady power supply for the Bicol Region in particular, the National Power Corp. is working on an "island grid" project in the region.

"We are currently implementing a project to further improve our generation capability in Bicol," Napocor president Cyril del Callar earlier said. "The project, which is basically an 'island grid,' will enable Napocor to immediately respond to similar situations for the province."

Islanding, or turning the region into an island grid, means cutting off the area from the rest of the grid and providing it with a dedicated power source of its own.

Bidders seek 'non-compete clause' in power contracts

ENTITIES INTERESTED IN bidding for National Power Corp. plants are urging the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. to make sure that will not have to compete for customers with the state power firm.

Ernesto Pantangco, president of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa), said PSALM should consider inserting a "non-compete clause" in the the transition supply contracts (TSCs) to be assigned to the power assets.

This provision, he said, would ensure that winning bidders would not have to compete with Napocor for customers.

"I brought it up during the last pre-bid conference (for the 600-megawatt Masinloc power plant)," Pantangco said. "At the end of the TSC, there is no guarantee that Napocor will not compete with you to get the same customer. There should be a non-compete clause in the TSC."

He added that he would not mind if the power producers were to compete for customers that were not included in the assigned TSCs.

"But for those that PSALM would assign to the assets, bidders should be assured that, at the end of the TSC, they won't have to compete with Napocor to renew that," Pantangco said. "That's a different story. Let's be fair."

In response, PSALM president and chief executive Jose Ibazeta said the provision that potential bidders wanted included in the TSCs would pose some sort of a problem of double standard.

"We've come to a dilemma," Ibazeta told the power producers in a forum. "By telling Napocor that [the state firm] can't compete, [Napocor may] say the market isn't open. In due time, I'll have an answer for you."

In an earlier interview, Ibazeta said the attachment of TSCs to Napocor plants to be placed on the auction block was just meant to jumpstart the potential new owners' initial operations, and not to provide a long-term assurance of returns on their investments. *Abigail L. Ho*

IT firms said to be better off recruiting on their own

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL INFORMATION AND COMMUnication technology firms are not getting effective recruitment help from human resources consulting firms amid concerns about the availability of skilled employees in the country, according to research and advisory firm XMG Inc.

Based on findings of XMG's most recent research on trends of the Philippine ICT workforce, two-thirds of HR consulting jobs for local call centers, BPO and IT companies that have at least 500 employees were "not as effective, and fail to fully deliver the anticipated benefits."

Lauro Vives, XMG founder and chief analyst, said that the top reason for this was that HR service providers lacked deep expertise and foresight to assist their clients' workforce development and talent management needs.

Vives said that, according to XMG estimates, the combined attrition rate of ICT professionals stood at a "staggering" 40 percent yearly. This is expected to disrupt the growth of the domestic industry.

He said the study also found that companies—both service providers and those with in-house employees—were better off developing their own internal capabilities using "best methods."

He added that a firm would do better with a combination of its global HR practice and local HR practitioners to provide timely analytics on recruitment, workforce use, strategic planning, inventorying skills and designing competitive and meaningful compensation plans.

"The good news is that there is a genuine trend where representatives from the organization's HR global practice is making a deliberate effort to learn the labor market and develop a local solution to meet the talent and workforce development needs," Vives said.

XMG predicts that over 80 percent of the companies would develop their own internal capabilities with lesser reliance on external HR service providers, he said.

"HR is a critical linchpin in the continued growth of any IT, call center and BPO companies," he added. "Beware of HR recruitment companies that preaches best practices."

Vives explained that in a situation where there is a talent war, best practice does not work when this means everybody else would be chanting the same tune.

"Unless external HR companies are firmly entrenched and syndicated in their client's end-to-end talent management and workforce development program, their effectiveness will be somewhat limited," he said.

On the other hand, Vives added, internal HR organizations in the Philippines must continue to do more to increase their strategic capabilities, including the need for better workforce analytics, benchmarking against peers on HR investments and salary comparative studies.

aboitiz
Power Corporation

Aboitiz Power Corporation ("AP") is offering its shares to local small investors ("Local Small Investors") in the Philippines.

Local Small Investor ("LSI") refers to share purchaser who is willing to purchase a minimum board lot or whose purchase does not exceed P25,000.
For AP Initial Public Offering ("IPO"), a LSI applicant can purchase from minimum of 1,000 to maximum of 4,000 AP IPO shares at P5.80 per share.

Procedures
All LSI applicants can go either to the offices of BDO Capital & Investment Corporation ("BCIC"), PCI Capital Corporation ("PCI Cap"), ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc ("ATR"), BPI Capital Corporation ("BPI Cap") and First Metro Investment Corporation ("FMIC") (collectively "Domestic Underwriters") or branches of BDO-EPCI and business centers of BPI Cap and FMIC starting 9:00 a.m. on July 4, 2007 up to 12:00 noon on July 10, 2007.

Upon application, a LSI subscriber is required to submit the following documents:
- Four (4) copies of the application form and one (1) copy of the signature card. A LSI subscriber cut out the application form found in this advertisement.
- Photocopy of two (2) valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport and PRC). For joint accounts/multiple investors in one application, two (2) valid IDs per account/investor are also required.
- Payment (cash or Metro Manila clearing check). All check payments must be made payable to "Aboitiz Power Corporation" and dated of submission of the application and crossed for deposit.

LSI applicants should lodge his/her shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") and is required to nominate a PDTC participant (subject to the latter's confirmation) to whom his/her shares will be lodged.

Multiple bookings (two or more applications by the same applicant) will not be allowed. Each LSI applicant may subscribe to not more than P23,200 worth of AP IPO shares.

The AP IPO shares shall be listed on July 16, 2007 at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

For inquiries, please call:

BCIC – (0632) 688.1288
BPI Cap – (0632) 816.9387
PCI Cap – (0632) 840.7000
FMIC – (0632) 840.5751
ATR – (0632) 849.8988

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IN 4 COPIES.
WHITE - Applicant
PINK - Issuer/ Stock Transfer Agent
YELLOW - Underwriter/PSE Trading Participant
BLUE - Acknowledgment copy

ABOITIZ POWER CORPORATION
Application to Subscribe/Purchase
Offer of Common Shares with Par Value of P —1.00 per Common Share

No.

This Application Form (the "Application"), to be completed in four (4) copies, together with a duly executed signature card, the appropriate check payment, and all required attachments must be received by the Underwriters or Selling Agents not later than 11:00 a.m., Manila Time, on July 10, 2007

Applications received (hereafter or without the attachments specified below will be rejected. This Application is irrevocable and once received, may not be withdrawn by the Applicant. Aboitiz Power Corporation (the "Company" or "AP"), by itself or through Securities Transfer Service, Inc. (the "Stock Transfer Agent"), in conformity with BDO Capital & Investment Corporation and PCI Capital Corporation (the "Domestic Lead Underwriters"), reserves the right to accept or reject this Application. Applications improperly or incompletely accomplished may be rejected. In case of over-subscription, the Company, by itself or through the Stock Transfer Agent in conformity with the Domestic Lead Underwriters, reserves the right to allocate the Offer Shares available to Applicants in the manner they deem appropriate

An Application, once accepted and approved by the Company, through the Stock Transfer Agent in conformity with the Domestic Lead Underwriters, shall constitute a purchase agreement between the Company and the Applicant for the purchase of the Offer Shares in the number approved by the Company at the time, in the manner, and subject to (a) the conditions set forth herein, (b) the Company's receipt of the appropriate funds from the Applicant, (c) the successful listing of the Offer Shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE"), and (d) upon the underwriting and purchase obligations of the Underwriters becoming unconditional and not being suspended, terminated or cancelled, on or before such listing.

Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the final Prospectus filed by the Company with the PSE on July 2, 2007 and uploaded on the PSE's website, as may be amended or supplemented

APPLICATION

I/We apply to subscribe/purchase ABOITIZ POWER CORPORATION Offer Shares under the terms and conditions stated herein and in the Prospectus for the Offer as follows

NUMBER OF OFFER SHARES	OFFER PRICE PER OFFER SHARE (IN PESOS)	TOTAL OFFER PRICE (IN PESOS)
	P 5.80	P

Applications must be for a minimum of 1,000 Offer Shares, and thereafter, in multiples of 1,000 Offer Shares.

PDTC LODGEMENT

All Offer Shares shall be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp ("PDTC"). The Applicant must provide the information required for PDTC-lodged shares. The Offer Shares will be lodged by the Company with the PDTC on or before the Listing Date

THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW. THE APPLICANT'S FAILURE TO DO SO OR THE PROVISION OF INCOMPLETE OR FALSE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED HEREIN, MAY LEAD TO THE REJECTION OF THIS APPLICATION. THE COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR SCALE-DOWN SUCH APPLICATION.

Information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares (to be completed with the assistance of the PDTC Participant appointed by the Applicant)	We confirm that we are a PDTC Participant and that the Applicant named in this Application is our bona fide client.
PDTC Participant Firm, PDTC Participant Code, PDTC Sub-Account Code	Authorized Signature(s) and Stamp of PDTC Participant

PAYMENT

The Offer Shares must be paid for through a personal or corporate check, manager's check or a cashier's check drawn against a bank account with a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, made payable to "Aboitiz Power Corporation", and crossed "Payee's Account Only"

TYPE OF CHECK	DRAWEE BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
☐ Personal ☐ Corporate ☐ Manager's Cashier's			

REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND AUTHORIZATION

I/We represent and warrant that all information contained herein and the attached documents are true and correct, and understand that the Company and the Underwriters may rely upon the representation and warranties I/we have made in this Application. I/We warrant having read and understood and relied solely upon the Prospectus in deciding to submit this Application and in acquiring and investing in the Offer Shares applied for. I/We warrant that I/we have read and understood, and unconditionally accept, the terms and conditions set forth in this Application. I/We understand that no person has been authorized to give information or to make any representation with respect to the Offer Shares other than those specified in the Prospectus. I/We hereby instruct and authorize the Company and/or the Underwriters to execute any application form or other documents and generally to do all such other things as the Company or the Underwriters may consider necessary or desirable to effect the registration in my/our name of the Offer Shares applied for, or any lesser number in respect of which an Application may be accepted, in the Stock and Transfer Book of the Company. I/We undertake to sign all documents and to do all other acts necessary to enable me/us to be registered as the owner of the Offer Shares applied for or any lesser number in respect of which the Application may be accepted, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company, and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines

NAME OF APPLICANT (IN PRINT)	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		DATE
ADDRESSES	NATIONALITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER/S	TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
Home:			
Mailing:			

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(Applicants should not fill in this section)

To be completed by the Trading Participant/Underwriter	To be completed by the Stock Transfer Agent for and on behalf of the Company
Application received: By: _____ Date/Time _____ Name of Trading Participant/Underwriter and Authorized Signatory	Application accepted and approved by Total Number of Offer Shares Accepted: _____ By: _____ Date: _____

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION

For Individual Applicants:
☐ One (1) duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
☐ Photocopy of 2 valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport or PRC);

For Corporate Applicants
☐ A certified true copy of the latest Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Applicant, duly certified by its Corporate Secretary;
☐ A certified true copy of the SEC Certificate of Registration of the Applicant, duly certified by its Corporate Secretary; and
☐ A duly notarized certificate of the Applicant's Corporate Secretary that sets out (a) the resolutions of the Applicant's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the purchase of the Offer Shares subject of the Application and designating signatories for the purpose; (b) the specimen signatures of such designated signatories; and (c) percentage holdings by Philippine nationals in the Applicant

For foreign corporate and institutional Applicants, in addition to the foregoing documents, a certification, in quadruplicate, representing and warranting that their investing in the Offer Shares subject of the Application will not violate the laws of their jurisdiction and that they are allowed to acquire, purchase and hold the Offer Shares

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE/PURCHASE OF OFFER SHARES IN ABOITIZ POWER CORPORATION ("AP")

The information supplied below are merely excerpts taken from the final Prospectus filed by the Company with the PSE on July 2, 2007 and uploaded on the PSE website, as amended or supplemented. For a complete description of the Terms of the Offer, the Applicant is advised to refer to the section entitled "Terms and Conditions of the Offer" in the Prospectus

1. The Offer– The Offer comprises an offer of 1,739,130,435 Offer Shares with par value of ₱1.00 per Offer Share. 1,217,391,305 of the Offer Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States by UBS AG (the "International Underwriter") to non-U.S. persons in reliance on Regulation S and within the United States to QIBs in reliance on Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act as part of the International Offer (the "International Offer"). 521,739,130 of the Offer Shares are being offered and sold at the Offer Price to all Trading Participants of the PSE and to Local Small Investors as part of the Domestic Offer in the Philippines (the "Domestic Offer")

2. Eligible Investor – The Domestic Offer is open only to Philippine Investors. "Philippine Investor" means any natural person of legal age residing in the Philippines regardless of nationality, or by any corporation, association, partnership, trust account, fund or entity residing in and organized under the laws of the Philippines, subject to the right of the Company to reject an Application or to reduce the number of Offer Shares applied for subscription or purchase if accepting the Application will cause the Company to breach foreign ownership restrictions for certain nationalized activities it engages in, under relevant Philippine laws. These activities and restrictions are discussed in the Prospectus

3. Offer Price – The Offer Price is ₱5.80 per Offer Share

4. Overallotment Option – The Company has granted the Stabilizing Agent an option exercisable from and including the Listing Date and ending 30 days from the date of the Prospectus, to purchase (or cause the purchase of) up to 260,869,565 Optional Shares on the same terms and conditions as the Firm Shares set forth in the Prospectus to cover over-allotments, if any.

5. Minimum Subscription - Applications to subscribe to the Offer Shares must be for a minimum of 1,000 Offer Shares, and thereafter in multiples of 1,000 Offer Shares.

6. Domestic Offer Period – The Domestic Offer Period commences at 9:00 a.m., Manila Time, on July 4, 2007 and closes at 11:00 a.m., Manila time, on July 10, 2007. The Company and the Domestic Lead Underwriters reserve the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period with the approval of the SEC and the PSE.

7. Application and Acceptance – Application forms and signature cards may be obtained from the Domestic Lead Underwriters, Domestic Co-Lead Underwriters or the Selling Agents/Trading Participants. A duly and fully accomplished Application in four (4) copies together with one (1) duly executed signature card, the appropriate check payment, and required documents must be received by the Domestic Underwriters or Selling Agents/Trading Participants on or before close of the Domestic Offer Period

An Application, once expressly accepted by the Company, through the Stock Transfer Agent in conformity with the Domestic Lead Underwriters, shall constitute a purchase agreement between the Company and the Applicant for the subscription to/purchase of the Offer Shares in the number approved by the Company at the time, in the manner, and subject to the conditions found in the front portion of this Application

8. Payment – The Offer Shares in the Domestic Offer must be paid in full upon submission of the Application. Payment must be made by a corporate manager's or cashier's check drawn against a reputable bank in Metro Manila to the order of "Aboitiz Power Corporation". The check must be dated as of the date of submission of the Application and crossed "Payee's Account Only"

9. Issue Taxes – All standard taxes applicable to the issuance of the Offer Shares pursuant to the Offer shall be for the sole account of the Company

10. Refunds – In the event this Application is rejected or the number of Offer Shares applied for is scaled down, or the Offer is cancelled, the corresponding amount paid by the Applicant shall be refunded, without interest, through a check payable to the Applicant (or in case of joint Applicants to the first named Applicant) and crossed "Payee's Account Only" and shall be made available for pick-up at the offices of the Stock Transfer Agent five (5) Banking Days after the close of the Offer Period. All refunds shall be made by the Stock Transfer Agent and no claim for refund should be filed with, nor will any such claim be entertained by the Company

11. PDTC Lodgement – All the Offer Shares will be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp. ("PDTC") and the Applicant is required to provide all the information necessary for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares. The Offer Shares will be lodged by the Company with the PDTC on or before the Listing Date.

12. Issuance and Delivery of Stock Certificates – The Applicant may request his/her ownership of the Offer Shares to be evidenced by stock certificates issued in his/her name as evidence of ownership through his/her broker only after the Offer Shares have been listed. The cost of the issuance of stock certificates shall be for the account of the Applicant.

13. Registration of Foreign Investments – The BSP requires that investments in shares of stock funded by inward remittance of foreign currency be registered with the BSP if the foreign exchange needed to service capital repatriation or dividend remittance will be sourced from the banking system. The registration with the BSP of all foreign investments in the Offer Shares shall be the responsibility of the foreign investor

14. Representation and Warranty of Foreign Investors – Applicants who are not Philippine citizens or which are corporations, associations or partnerships that are not Philippine nationals hereby represent and warrant to the Company and to the Underwriters that their application to purchase, and investment in the Offer Shares will not violate the rules of their respective jurisdictions, and that acquiring and investing in the Offer Shares are permitted in such jurisdictions. The Offer Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, "U.S. Persons" (as defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended)

15. Timetable
- Start of Offer Period ... 9:00 a.m., Manila time, July 4, 2007
- Deadline for Submission of Application and end of Offer Period ... 11:00 a.m., Manila time, July 10, 2007
- Listing Date and Commencement of Trading of the Common Shares on the PSE ... 9:30 a.m., Manila time, July 16, 2007

16. Local Small Investors

The Company plans to make available up to 20% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE and up to 10% of the Offer Shares for distribution to the Local Small Investors. The term "Local Small Investors" is defined as a share subscriber or purchaser who is willing to subscribe or purchase a minimum board lot or whose subscription or purchase does not exceed ₱25,000.00. Should the total demand for the Offer Shares in the Local Small Investors' subscription exceed the maximum allocation, the Domestic Underwriters shall allocate the Offer Shares by balloting. Should the total demand from Local Small Investors be less than the 10% alloted to them, the unsold allocation shall be reallocated back for distribution to the general public.

An interested Local Small Investor may secure the Application and signature card from the Domestic Underwriters and submit 4 copies of the Application (1 original and 3 copies), 2 copies of duly executed signature cards and photocopy of 2 valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport and PRC). The local small investor should submit the required documents and payment to the Domestic Underwriters on or before the close of the Offer.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines)*, through the *General Appropriation Act* and the AFP *Modernization Program Act Trust Fund*, intends to apply the sum of ***SIXTY MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 60,824,000.00)*** being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Acquisition of **Supply and Delivery of 76mm Cal. 62 Ammunition.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected on Bid opening.

2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the *76mm Cal. 62 ammunition Acquisition Project* of the Philippine Navy. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 180 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

PARTICULARS	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	ABC
76mm Ammunition	720 rounds	Php 60,824,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday excluding holidays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00).** The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The AFP/DND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on at July 25, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 15, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on August 15, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. Only offers or bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers or their duly authorized representatives shall be entertained. The GOODs should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with *SEC 4(b) of R.A. 7898.*

10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the project pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).

11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
Defense Modernization Office
DND Annex Building,
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Telephone No: (632)911-6001 local 8414
Telefax No: (632)421-3531
Email: **bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph**
Website: **www.afpmodernization.mil.ph**

(Sgd.) **ASEC ROBERTO G NUQUI**
Chairman, DND Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY
Zamboanga City
Website: http://www.wmsu.edu.ph

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Western Mindanao State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by CHED Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of an earned doctorate degree;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Must not have record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation Clearance;
- Ombudsman Clearance;
- Sandiganbayan Clearance;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- Platform of governance as administrator;
- Authenticated Birth Certificate;
- Under Oath CSC Form 212; and
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician.

Interested applicants for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before **August 09, 2007** to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

ENGR. ARMANDO A. ARQUIZA
University and Board Secretary
Western Mindanao State University
7000 Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 991-3065, (062) 991-1771 loc 1 and loc 2, (062) 991-1040
Fax. (062) 991-3065 & (062) 992-4238

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that warrants of arrest of **MR. APOLINAR RECINTO MARASIGAN** of Brgy. Duhatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 06-0145 and 06-0362 to 06-0367 for violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

LUCKY 4A CORPORATION
Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City, 4217 Batangas
Tel. Nos. (043) 404-1340 to 43

(PDI – June 25 & July 4, 2007)

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Apply personally with your resumé and certificate of previous employment at:

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- Proficient in Photoshop, Freehand or Illustrator
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to work for long hours

(Please submit sample works)

Qualified applicants should apply personally with their resumé from 1pm to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays at Unit 6M, 6th Floor, Vernida 1 Condominium, 120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (beside CAP Bldg.)

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OBITUARIES

ELLA OROSA RAQUEL-SANTOS

November 30, 1915 - July 3, 2007

passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord to join our Creator and her husband Arsenio Raquel-Santos.

Her bereaved children and children-in-law, **Armand** and **Baby Benetua, Lynn** and **Rene Sunico, Lenore** and **Didi Lim** and **Francis**; brothers **Mariano** (†), **Vicente** (†), and **Roberto Orosa** (†); sisters **Rita Orosa-Romey** (†) and **Sofia Orosa-Macatangay** (†); brother **Evaristo** and sister **Elma Orosa-Paraiso**; grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law **Armin, Michelle** and **Romeo Mangubat, Arvi, Joey** and **Gina Ibay, Jon Jon** and **Karen Cruz, Jay Jay, Marie Claire** and **Justin**; nephews, nieces, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 6, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park - Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Capilla de la Virgen.

Rita Villanueva Maog

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 2, 2007 at the age of 99.

Her loving husband **Pedro Maog, Sr.** (†); children and children-in-law **Pedro, Jr.** and **Norma**; **Roseo** (†) and **Irene**; **Jose** and **Estela**; **En**; **Vener** and **Ding** and **Gus** and **Marie**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz - Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on July 7, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City at 3:00 p.m.

Please omit flowers.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. : 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Ella Orosa Raquel-Santos	Capilla de la Virgen Sanc. de San Antonio, Makati	July 6, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass	Manila Memorial Park Parañaque
Agnes Sanchez	Chapel-14	July 5, 2007 8:00 a.m.	Himlayang Pilipino

RODOLFO M. RICAFRENTE

63 years old
Died on June 22, 2007

His bereaved wife, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and all relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment today, July 04, 2007, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

In Loving Memory of our Dearly Beloved

Judge VICTOR BUENAFE CUÑADA

of Bacolod, Negros and Pilar, Capiz

peacefully joined his Creator on 1 July 2007 at age 67.

His bereaved wife, **Inday**; sisters and brother: **Cecil, Isabel, Doris, Adela, Jaime**; and his children: **Victor Jr., Patria** and **Phenjie, Gabino, Raymund, Jennifer** and **Valentine** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Alisbo Memorial Chapel, New Wing, Lacson cor Burgos St., Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 8, 2007.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." ***Psalm 23:4***

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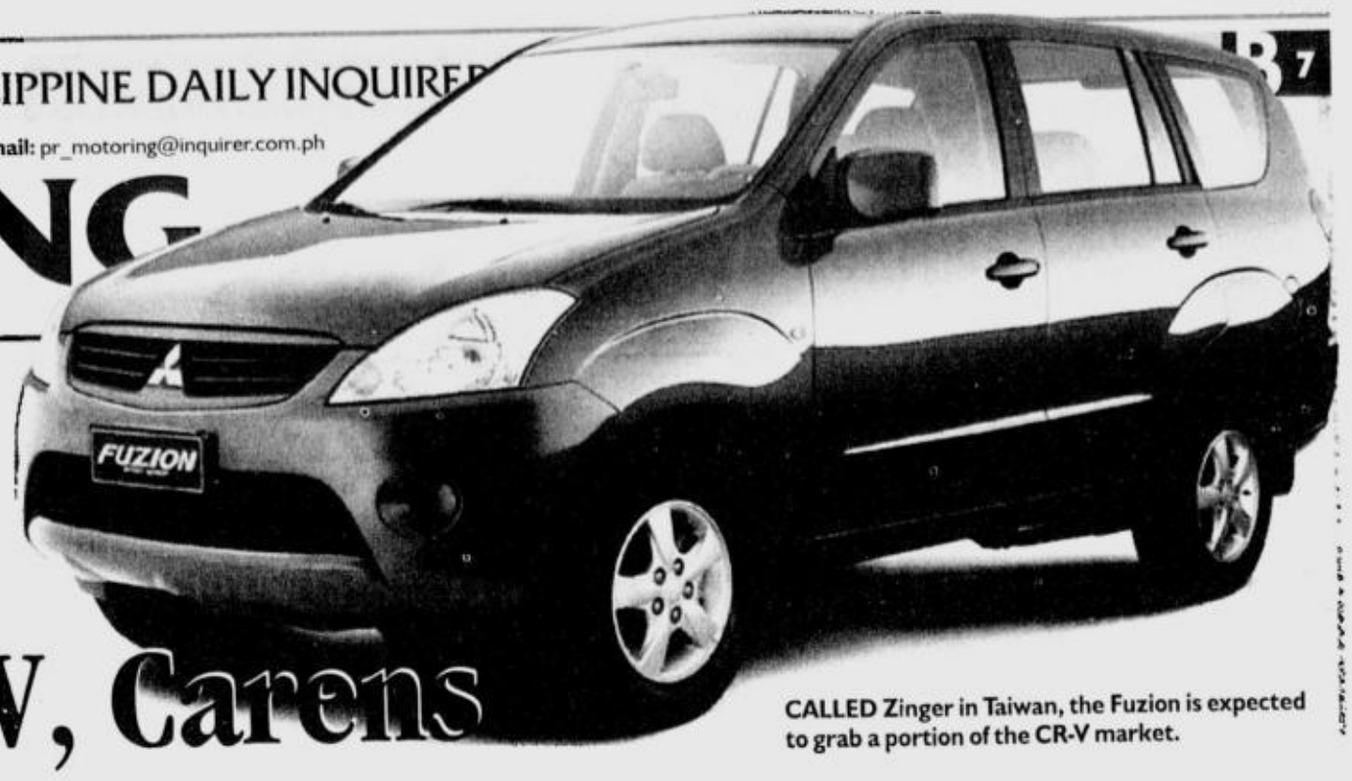

CALLED Zinger in Taiwan, the Fuzion is expected to grab a portion of the CR-V market.

Fuzion faces off with Innova, CR-V, Carens

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE THREE-WAY race has suddenly become a foursome. Zooming alongside the Toyota Innova, Honda CR-V and Kia Carens in terms of pricing and functionality is the recently introduced Fuzion. Mitsubishi Philippines has thrown into the fray its own seven-seater family vehicle designed as a crossover inspired by SUV styling combined with the functionality of a multipurpose vehicle.

Mitsubishi Philippines reveals that the Fuzion sport wagon (not to be mistaken with the new energy drink with the same name) recently shipped from Taiwan merges the sporty character and ruggedness of an SUV, the spaciousness and versatility of a van, and the riding comfort of a passenger car.

More crowded

Does this sound familiar? It might be, since the "crossover" segment has become even more crowded. A sign of the times, perhaps, that the once sedan-crazy singles of a few years ago have settled down and have had families of their own, and are now planning on buying more versatile vehicles that still retain the "oomph" in their engines. And this market is huge (think late 20s onward age segment) that major car manufacturers are understandably scrambling to retain the purchasing loyalties of this MPV segment.

The Fuzion might be a latecomer of sorts, as it faces a well-established Toyota Innova brand (which boasts of 10 variants with prices ranging from P972,000 to P1.144 million), the "affordable" MPV Kia Carens (from P818,000 to P1.050 million) and the ever-popular Honda CR-V (from P999,000 to P1.3 million), but the Fuzion's pricing (at P950,000 for the GLX gas automatic and P1.150 million for its GLS Sports gas, power (with a 2.4-liter engine) and looks will easily help it catch up with the three.

Fuel economy

In tests conducted by MMPC using its multi-use tester-III system (a device being used by Mitsubishi dealers to get diagnostics) and with two persons on board, fuel economy of the Fuzion registered at 7.53 km/l running at an average of 34.14 kilometers per hour, while highway driving fuel mileage was at 12.45 km/l at an average speed of 75.52 kph.

Its body is based on reinforced impact safety body structure with collapsible steering column that prevents shaft from protruding the cabin in the event of collision.

Its GLS Sport has 7-inch LCD monitor, and its 1-din DVD/CD/MP3/WMA/WAV/Tuner /iPod-ready player is dealer-option installed, according to Mitsubishi.

Tale of the Tape

	FUZION	INNOVA	CR-V	CARENS
Price range	P950,000 to P1.150 M	P763,000 up to P1.144 M	P1.19 M up to P1.45 M	P818,000 to P1.050 M
Dimensions				
Length	4585 mm	4555 mm	4530 mm	4545 mm
Width	1760 to 1775 mm	1770 mm	1820 mm	1800 mm
Height	1800 to 1805 mm	1755	1680 mm	1650 mm
Wheelbase	2720 mm	2750 mm	2620 mm	2700 mm
Ground clearance	180 mm	180 mm	185 mm	156 mm
Engines	2.4-liter, 16-valve, single overhead cam (SOHC) 4G64 gasoline engine	2-liter gas, 4-cylinder, in-line 16-valve, double overhead camshaft to 2.5-liter diesel, 4-cylinder, in-line 16 -valve, DOHC turbo charged.	2-liter SOHC i-VTEC, 16 valve (front wheel drive) and 2.4-liter automatic transmissions with DOHC i-VTEC, 16-valve engine (real time four wheel drive).	2-liter CVVT gas engines, DOHC, 16-valve and 2-liter common rail diesel with variable geometry turbo charger

A trio of fives

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

MY MEMORY IS FAILING ME. AGE IS THE main culprit but this is likely compounded by the countless bits of automotive information floating in my brain. It is sometimes difficult to instantly recall the difference between Piezo crystals and Venturi plates these days, which for the record are not kinds of expensive dinnerware. That much I am very, very sure of.

At the recent local press launch of the new BMW 5 Series, the presented technical information of the 530d just didn't seem right. Just one particular specification kept bothering me, that the new 3.0-liter variable geometry turbo diesel engine claimed 500 Nm of torque.

Has it always been that way? It seemed like such a claim was a definite typographical error. Remembering the last 530d drive, over two years ago, massive mountains of torque were definitely at hand, but the specifications must have been somewhere around the 380-Nm to 450-Nm range, numbers typical of Italian super car exotica.

3 versions

The ensuing test drive would dispel my notion that the current claim was merely an error. Three versions of the updated 5 Series were to be tested that day and at some point, seat time in the 530d would provide visceral confirmation of the torque numbers.

First up was the only gasoline model in the lineup, the 523i. Almost 200 bhp and 230 Nm at 3,500 revolutions allow this substantial sedan to hit the legal speed limit of 100 kph in just over 8 ticks. The power band is broad, peaking very near the 6,000 rpm. Not bad for a 2.5-liter, straight six. Performance is likely tied to the high precision gasoline direct injection system. Think of computer-controlled bursts of atomized fuel, optimized for both output and consumption.

Suitable venue

Up next up was the pair of modern turbo diesels with the semi-open roads of Daang Hari ahead. This 8-km diversion from Alabang to Molino, Cavite packed with sweepers and sprinkled with bridges and roundabouts would be a suitable venue to test the real world ability of these 5's.

The 520d may look like the runt of the model lineup, but don't let the numbers on the trunk lid fool you. This 2.0-liter four pot has modest horsepower claims in the 160-bhp range but again in the torque game, it is not lacking. About 340 Nm assures that this diesel accelerates to 100 only half a second slower than the 523i. Something you may want to consider given the price difference between the two. As fun as this perky diesel is to drive, all the accolades really don't mean much the moment you are able to drive its bigger brother.

Gut-tickling lurch

The first two minutes behind the wheel of the 530d and the copious amount of power make its statement very clear. With 500 Nm of torque coming in all at once around 1,500 rpm even the slightest conviction with the accelerator results in a gut-tickling lurch of velocity.

Having to live through the rise of the 530d's tachometer to 4,000 rpm is something you will want to experience at least once in your lifetime. Your brain tries to steady itself because of the g-forces pummeling your cranium. Neck muscles strain to push your head forward so you can put your eyes back on the road. And all this time, your mind is trying to reconcile the fact that the rocket you are riding is diesel-powered, has four doors and weighs almost two tons. Moments like that are priceless.

Many will focus on the subtle styling statement, technology showcase and the lifestyle proposition that is the 5 Series. The ownership experience in these sedans is at the very least on par with what most demanding customers expect. Premium down to the scent inside the cabin, it is very difficult to go wrong with these cars if impressive arrival is your aim. This writer though will stick to what he knows best. The BMW 5 Series is still all about the road getting there.

Mitsubishi's '07 SUV trio

(First of two parts)

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

I HAD A WONDERFUL DREAM LAST night. A genie appeared and told me I could have my pick of three new 2007 Mitsubishi sport utility vehicles. "To help you choose," he added, "you will test-drive for one week each, one after the other, the Outlander, the Endeavor and the Pajero. Is that okay with you?"

"Great!" I replied. The genie vanished in a puff of smoke and was replaced by a glossy black 2007 Outlander GLS Sport powered by a new all-aluminum 3.0-liter Mivec V6 SOHC 24-valve gasoline engine mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission (AT) with manual shift gate (Invecs II with Sportronic) and magnesium alloy paddle shifters on the 3-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel.

While the completely redesigned Outlander is the smallest of Mitsubishi's 2007 SUV trio, it is two inches longer in wheelbase and four inches longer overall than its 2003-2006 iteration. Not only is the new Outlander bigger, it is more powerful, too, as the Mivec V6 delivers 223 ps/6,250 rpm and 28.3 kg-m/4,000 rpm max torque compared to the 160 hp of the 4-cylinder predecessor.

Intensified

Imported CBU from Japan, the Outlander Sport has been upgraded in additional ways to intensify the brand's youthful appeal: 18-inch alloy wheels, auto-leveling HID headlamps, a red-lit multi-info display monitor, LED taillights and third brake light and trendiest of all, a 650-watt Rockford Fosgate sound system with 6 in-dash CD/MP3/tuner, an audio jack and 9 speakers including 4 tweeters and a 10-inch subwoofer behind the back seat.

The two-piece liftgate has a clamshell design with a handy drop-down tailgate section that can hold up to 400 lb. The load capacity of the cargo area, which has a detachable tonneau cover, is increased when the 60/40 splitting/sliding/reclining rear bench seat is folded and tumbled forward at the touch of a button.

Aware that it is equipped with dual front, side and curtain airbags, Active Stability Control, disc brakes on all four wheels with ABS and EBD plus pretensioner seatbelts, I felt utterly safe driving the Outlander Sport. With a longer wheelbase, riding comfort is better than ever. A crossover, the Outlander shares the same chassis as the upcoming 2008 Lancer which explains the carlike ride.

Complement

Stabilizer bars fore and aft complement the suspension consisting of MacPherson struts with coil springs up front and a heavy-duty multilink setup at the rear. The Outlander lacks the low-range gearing for serious off-road adventures, but a knob on the center console switches the mode from front wheel drive to a 50/50 locked-in front/rear power split.

2007 MITSUBISHI Outlander

The steering wheel paddles enhance the fun of driving the sharply responsive Sport. Wind and road noise are minimal though the engine drones at high speed. At P1,688,000, the Outlander Sport costs P97,000 less than its main rival yet offers more power and excitement. On the other hand, a V6 guzzles more gas than a 4-cylinder powerplant.

"The Outlander is impressive," I told the genie when he reappeared after a week to replace it with the Endeavor. "Wait till you've tried all three," he said.

Best ride quality

Built on the same platform as the Galant 240M, the mid-sized Endeavor, I would soon find out, provides the best ride quality among the three SUVs. The similarities between the Endeavor and the Outlander GLS Sport are many: side, curtain and front dual-stage airbags, a multi-info display monitor, 650-watt Rockford Fosgate 6-in-dash CD/MP3 tuner with 9 speakers (but the subwoofer is 2 inches smaller than the Outlander Sport's), steering wheel-mounted audio controls, auto climate control, 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and EBD, the same suspension with stabilizer bars fore and aft, tonneau cover, roof rails and LED taillights and third brake lamp.

The Endeavor has several features not found in the GLS Sport: an electronic active skid and traction control system, 8-way power adjustable driver's seat, rear aircon vents, cruise control, dual front accessory sockets. Yet, while it is bigger than the Outlander, the Endeavor is front-wheel drive with no 4WD mode, has smaller (17") alloy wheels, a 4-speed instead of a 6-speed Invecs II AT with Sportronic shifter, daytime running lights instead of HID headlamps, unibody construction instead of ladder frame. The 3.8-liter, SOHC 24-valve V6 engine generates 228 ps/5,000 rpm and 35 kg-m/3,750 rpm peak torque.

While the solidly built 5-seater P2,150,000 Endeavor, imported CBU from the United States, is capable and comfy with refined road manners, it seems to be more passenger sedan than SUV compared to the Outlander.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Time is the best teacher, but it kills all its students.

The all-new Civic reaps accolades in several countries

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

LAST MARCH, THE ALL-NEW Honda Civic took the honor of being the 2007 Philippine Car of the Year.

Not only that, Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), which bestows the prestigious annual award, also declared the all-new Civic its winner in the Best Compact Car category as well as in the Best Overall Value special award category.

Then in May, the all-new Honda Civic, after getting the most number of votes coming from online and on-site polling centers, was declared this year's Automobile of the Year as well as the Compact Sedan of the Year by the 2007 Petron Xtra Unleaded Auto Focus People's Choice Awards.

CIVIC

Outside the Philippines, the all-new Civic is also receiving similar awards: Car News International—Taiwan's Car of the Year, Autocar Asean's Overall Winner, Car of the Year—Malaysia, Japan Automotive Hall of Fame Award's Car of the Year, Auto Journalists Association of Canada's Car of the Year, Motortrend Car of the Year—North America.

Similar reasons

These award-giving bodies have almost similar reasons for giving the all-new Civic their highest honors.

The car excels in a broad range of attributes: it has a futuristic-looking exterior, an ultramodern cabin layout, a powerful 1.8-liter base engine (that promises fuel economy comparable if not superior to most 1.6-liter engines) and a price range that is not a tad too expensive (P772,000 to P807,000) for a lot of Filipino motorists.

In fact, the all-new Civic garnered plenty of praises from Cagi members (composed of writers and reporters from the country's various motoring, business and lifestyle publications and broadcast outfits) who found that although no single aspect on the all-new Civic may stand out for its excellence over and above other compact cars, taken all together they meld into a fantastic driving experience complemented by a proven record for reliability and safety.

Proven record

This proven record could also be the reason Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has been a consistent Trusted Brands awardee of the international magazine "Reader's Digest Asia."

This year, the company was selected as the Gold Awardee under the car category.

In partnership with media measurement and advertising intelligence provider Nielsen Media Research, "Reader's Digest Asia" sent over 300,000 questionnaires and conducted 3,500 phone interviews to seven Asian markets—Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines (22 percent of questionnaire respondents and 14 percent of phone interview sample came from the Philippines).

Consumers were asked to name their single most trusted brand among 43 categories of products and services, and then rate the brand based on six factors: trustworthiness, credible image, quality, value, understanding of customer needs and innovation.

BUSINESS

Gov't will not meet '07 collection target

Expected revenue to hit only ₱1.09T, ₱25 billion short of goal, DBCC says

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT MEET its tax collection target for 2007 due to shortfalls posted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

An official of the Development Budget Coordination Committee said the off-target performance by the two main revenue collectors in the first half has made it "impossible" for the government to meet its target for the year.

Preliminary reports showed that the BIR managed to collect only P307.44 billion in taxes from January to June out of the P352.69-billion target for the period.

On the other hand, the BOC has turned in only P75 billion to the national government as of May.

This means that the BOC should have collected P30.3 billion in June alone just to meet its six-month goal of P105.3 billion.

Because of the lackluster performance of the BIR and BOC, the official said that based on "best scenario" estimates, revenue collection this year will only hit P1.094 trillion, P25 billion short of the official target of P1.119 trillion.

The expected collection will account for 14.8 percent of the projected country's gross domestic product this year, lower than the target of 15.1 percent.

Representatives of the DBCC, the interagency body tasked with setting the government's economic targets, will present today its revised revenue forecasts to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The forecast takes into account the actual revenue collection by the BIR and the BOC, the two biggest revenue sources of the government.

The source said the DBCC would present three possible outcomes of the revenue collection picture for the year.

Under the most optimistic forecast by the DBCC, the BIR will be able to shore up collection in the second half so that it will end the year just P19 billion short of its target for the year of P765 billion.

The inefficiency of the collection processes in the BIR was blamed for the low collection in the first half.

The total revenues expected for the year also assume that the BOC would only collect P223.25 billion in duties and taxes this year, lower than its official target of P228 billion.

The worst case scenario shows the BIR and BOC further falling short of their collection targets.

The weak tax collection in the first half already cost BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag his job.

Deputy Commissioner Lilian Hefti was tasked to serve as officer in charge of the BIR.

She took her oath last Monday.

Hefti said the BIR would intensify the implementation of several revenue-enhancement programs to help recover from the shortfall in the first half.

Some of the programs included the review of the current tax amnesties and investigation of the taxes remitted by the country's top 10,000 corporations.

The government is hard-pressed to meet its tax collection goals, especially after having committed to help the government further reduce its budget deficit this year and post a balanced budget by next year.

Under the government's fiscal targets for the medium term, the government was supposed to cut the deficit to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

The deficit last year was a marked reduction from the P146.8 billion recorded in 2005, but doubts have been raised over the government's ability to sustain its fiscal achievement last year.

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SMELLS LIKE DURIAN SPIRIT Makro Phils. Operations Director Ernest Potgeiter (right) and Vice President Noli De Castro inspect fresh durian on sale during the opening ceremonies of the Makro Extravaganza at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. ERIK ARAZAS

Coco exports down, group says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE VOLUME OF EXPORTS OF MAJOR COconut-based products dropped 44.1 percent as of May this year due to the lingering effects of the typhoons that hit coconut-producing regions last year.

Preliminary industry data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines showed that shipments as of May of coconut-based products hit only 563,910 metric tons compared to 1.008 million MT sent out in the same period last year.

Coconut oil was still the biggest export product in terms of volume, although shipments as of May reached only 270,599 MT, down 50.8 percent from 550,125 MT exported last year.

Copra meal shipments, on the other hand, dropped 44.6 percent to 116,019 MT from 209,385 MT, while desiccated coconut suffered an 8.6-percent cut to 48,316 MT from 52,891 MT.

Oleochemicals, used in producing biodiesel, managed to buck the downtrend with a 12.9-percent increase in export volume to 59,688 MT in copra equivalent from 53,871 MT.

In May alone, aggregate volumes of major coconut exports reached 144,682 MT, sliding 37.9 percent from 233,068 MT in the same month of 2006.

Also, May shipments were 14.7 percent lower than the total 169,635 MT shipped out in April.

As in the first five months, major shipments in May shrank except for oleochemicals, which grew 25.3 percent to 17,631 MT.

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A DARK pair of sneakers will keep your feet mud-free without looking dirty at once. Sneakers, Pony

RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY

OH YES, IT'S THAT time of the year again. 2bU! welcomes the wet season with our first rainy day special. Arm yourself with fab footwear, beauty tips, drizzle lessons and downpour-inspired songs and chase the rainy blues away.

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Wet weather footwear

You don't have to let your fashion sense go into hibernation just because of the rains

Text by Bianca Consunji and Angela Ignacio
2bU! Correspondents
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

PICTURE THIS: YOU'RE GETting dressed for the day and are just slipping on your favorite flats when you suddenly hear the rumble of thunder outside, followed by the driving sound of rain. Sighing, you shake off your *kikay* flats and search for your rattiest but most comfortable pair of sneakers to protect your feet from the impending flood.

Sounds familiar? For a lot of fashion lovers, the rainy season is the worst time of the year.

WET/C2

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
Information for Living Right

question

I ve heard that carbonated soft drinks can keep your body from absorbing the calcium it needs for healthy bones, causing osteoporosis and weak bones. Does drinking carbonated soft drinks hurt your bones?

answer

No. Drinking carbonated soft drinks does not weaken your bones or cause osteoporosis. The main causes of poor bone health are not taking in enough calcium in your diet, (especially when you're young), changes in female hormones and a lack of weight bearing physical activity. Some people claim weak bones occur because too much phosphorus (from phosphoric acid in cola drinks) or too much caffeine in your system keeps your body from absorbing calcium. However, experts have reviewed these claims many times, and have concluded that they are not true.

In 1994, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) assembled experts from osteoporosis and bone health at a conference on Optimal Calcium Intake. The experts' independent report stated "phosphate has not been found to affect calcium absorption or excretion significantly." The American Medical Association reviewed the NIH experts' statement and concluded that the effect of phosphate on calcium absorption was "physiologically trivial."

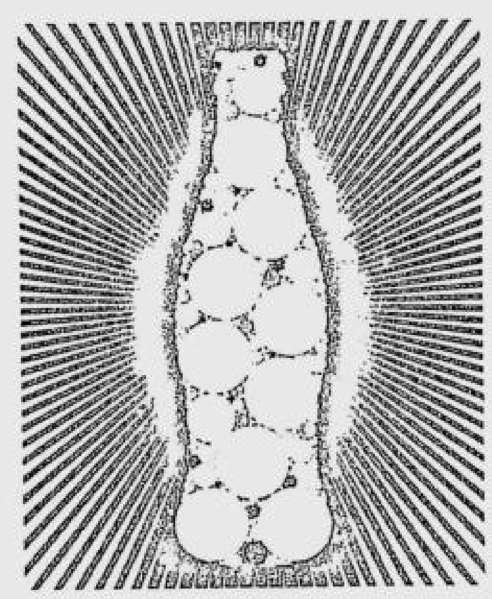
In 1997, The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine reviewed the scientific data about phosphorus and found it does not appear to negatively affect calcium absorption, concluding that for most age groups there is no rational basis for relating the amounts of calcium and phosphorus consumed to each other.

In 2000, the NIH Consensus Development Conference on osteoporosis reaffirmed that dietary phosphorus/caffeine is not an important factor in osteoporosis for individuals consuming a balanced diet. o In 2004, the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis reviewed the scientific data, acknowledging the concerns raised about calcium and phosphorus, but also finding that any impact is unimportant in people with adequate calcium intakes.

In fact, soft drinks add only very small amounts of phosphorus to your diet through phosphoric acid, an ingredient that helps give cola drinks their tangy taste. The average daily recommended intake of phosphorus established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine is 1,000 mg; eight ounces (240 milliliters) of Coca-Cola provides 41 mg while eight ounces (240 milliliters) of orange juice provides 27 mg.

Phosphorus is a mineral found widely in nature and is an essential nutrient in the diet for all living things. It plays an important role in energy metabolism in the body and is a major component of bones and teeth.

Compared to other dietary sources of phosphorus, soft drinks contribute about 2 percent of the total dietary phosphorus in the U.S. diet. High-protein foods like meats, cheeses, nuts and grains supply about 98 percent of dietary phosphorus.



Idol in Health!

The swagger, the attitude, and the voice are all characteristically his. He has a persona that has launched a hundred box-office hits. He is idolized by many; young and old, male and female alike. Even now, as he continues to break new ground in his profession, his name will go down in the history of Philippine cinema as one of the biggest and brightest stars of the time. He is known as "utol" and Binoe. He is none other than, Robin Padilla.

For more than a decade, Robin Padilla has graced many movie screens as an action hero. But not many people know that he plays other important roles in life, outside of the silver screen: father and health enthusiast. He makes it a point to maintain a balance in all aspects of his life.

"Unang-una, kailangan mayroon tayo noong tinatawag na balanseng pamumuhay," he shared. "Kailangang pilitin mo na ikaw ay pisikal na maayos, ispiritwal, emosyonal at piliting mong hanggang sa pinansiyal. Iyan ang sikreto. Nagmumula ang kapayapaan at ang kalusugan mo sa maayos na pag-iisip. Kapag ang pag-iisip mo ay maayos, ibig sabihin ay naiintindihan mo ang sarili mo. Kapag naiintindihan mo ang sarili mo, maaari kang maging physically-fit."

His brother, Rommel Padilla, newly-elected as a board member in Nueva Ecija agreed with Robin on the importance of health to one's life and profession. "Siyempre kailangang mabantayan iyong kalusugan unang-una dahil tayo ang tinitingala ng ating mga kababayan. Siyempre kailangan nilang makita na ikaw ay nasa tamang wisyo; healthy mind, healthy body. Sa pamamalakad iyon palang ay napaka-gandang ehemplo na."

Yes, Robin is a loving and supportive father and an advocate of muay thai. This is the national sport of Thailand and is also called Thai Boxing. It is a form of martial arts that is also referred to as "The Art of the Eight Limbs" because not only does a player use both hands in combat, he also uses his shins, elbows and knees. It is this sport which Robin is now actively involved in. He is even the Chairman of the Muay Association of the Philippines.

"Sa pisikal, ang muay phil/thai ang aking takbuhan," Robin explained. "Pero hindi lang muay phil kung hindi maraming klase ng martial arts. Mahal ko iyong arnis kasi sa atin iyon. Nag-wushu din ako. Ang sa akin lang, kayo ko pinapraktis ang muay phil dahil napaka-cinematic niya. Para sa propesyon ko bilang artista. At isa pa, iyong discipline at pagiging nationalistic ng mga muay thai fighters, masyado ko siyang minamahal. Kasi sa kasaysayan ng Thailand, kung hindi dahil sa mga muay thai fighters ay wala ang kanilang freedom at iyong pagmamahal at loyalty nila sa kanilang hari. At iyan ang isang bagay ang gusto kong matutunan ng ating mga kababayan, iyong pagmamahal sa ating bayan, pagmamahal sa namumuno."

These days, when he isn't off shooting for television or for movies, one can see Robin standing on the sidelines, cheering on his children while they practice muay phil. Like any father, he winces at hard punches and celebrates good strikes made by his children. But it's no wonder why his children picked up the sport as well, because as he said, "Ang salamin ng mga bata ay ang magulang. Kapag nakita ng mga bata na ang ama ay tamad, pahiga-higa, walang ginagawa kung hindi magpalaki ng tiyan, ay walang ibang gagawin ang bata kung hindi iyan. Pero kapag nakikita ng bata na ikaw ay pisikal, nag-e-ehersisyo ka at pinipilit mong ang iyong kalusugan ang iyong prioridad, ganyan ang bata, susunod sa iyo 'yan. Kung ano ang ginagawa ng matanda, iyon ang ginagawa ng bata," he added, quoting an old saying.

The Beverage Institute for Health and Wellness agrees with this statement. According to its website, "Because helping children establish health-promoting habits is important to their childhood development and long-term health, parents are often encouraged to be good "role models" for their children. Being a good role model means showing children by your actions what you value - like being physically active and eating a well-balanced diet (www.thebeverageinstitute.org.2006)."

But as Robin said, staying healthy and encouraging your children to be healthy doesn't necessarily mean you have to spend a lot for it. He explained, "Kasi kapag pinag-usapan natin ang kalusugan, ang nasa isipan ng marami kailangang magpunta sa gym, magastos. Hindi po. Ang kalusugan ay, gumising ka lang ng maaga, ilakad mo ang anak mo, itakbo mo, i-jogging mo siya, konting aerobics na kayo-kayo lang sa bahay, pisikal na iyan. At kung ikaw naman ay may kakayahan para pumunta sa mga marunong mag-martial arts ay dalhin mo ang anak mo. Kung hindi naman, sa bahay lang. Basta ang importante ay pawisan ka."

Being physically active is one of the three key values of living a balanced, healthy and active lifestyle or HAL. The other values are eating a balanced diet and proper hydration. As a sportsman himself, Robin recognizes the importance of hydration not only while doing physical activities, but in everyday life as well. "Ang liquid ay parang paglalagay ng gasolina sa katawan, kung kotse nga mayroon niyan, tao pa? Hindi puwede na iinom lang ng tubig o ikaw ay hydrated kapag ikaw ay nag-e-ensayo lang. Hindi po. Pampalinis iyan. Kaya mga mahal kong kapatid, libre iyan. Kung hindi man libre, mura lang iyan."

According to the Beverage Institute for Health and Wellness website, hydration doesn't necessarily mean drinking water only. In fact, you can choose among your favorite beverages like soft drinks, teas and juices to fulfill your daily needs of 11-16 cups of total fluids each day. Fluids means that even foods that contain water like fruits, vegetables and soups can help in hydration. This requirement for 11-16 cups also varies depending on your age, weight, gender, the weather and your level of physical activity. The more you are active, the more you need to stay hydrated.

Robin is actively encouraging everyone to try muay phil today. "Ang code of honor and nationalism ng muay phil ay mga bagay na gusto ko pong matutunan ng ating mga kababayan. Huwag tayo maging masyadong politikal. Dapat tayo maging pisikal. Upang ang ating mga mental ay maging maganda ang takbo." Spoken like the real 'idol' that he is.

To get a taste of muay thai action, catch the upcoming show about the sport: muay thai TV "King of the Rings - Matira Matibay" soon on ABC 5 in cooperation with Viva Sports and with co-host Robin Padilla.

Live a balanced, healthy and active lifestyle today. Visit www.thebeverageinstitute.org for more information about your health and beverages.

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PAIR funky socks with your sneakers. Green sneakers with pink trim and sequins, Pony. Gray and blue sneakers, Zoo York

YOU can love or hate dear clogs, but there's no denying that Crocs are ideal for rainy weather.

MAKE sure your shoes are skid-free to avoid any accidents. White sneakers, Silver ballet flats, Croc

Wet weather footwear

From page C1

Trendy clothes get stowed in the back of the closet, and a lot of shoes get ruined because of all that mud.

But good news, folks. You don't have to let your fashion sense go into hibernation just yet. It may not be a good time for delicate sandals, ruffled skirts, and designer jeans, but the rainy season does have its merits. For the fashion-conscious, it's a good time for brightly-colored jackets, galoshes, raincoats and hats.

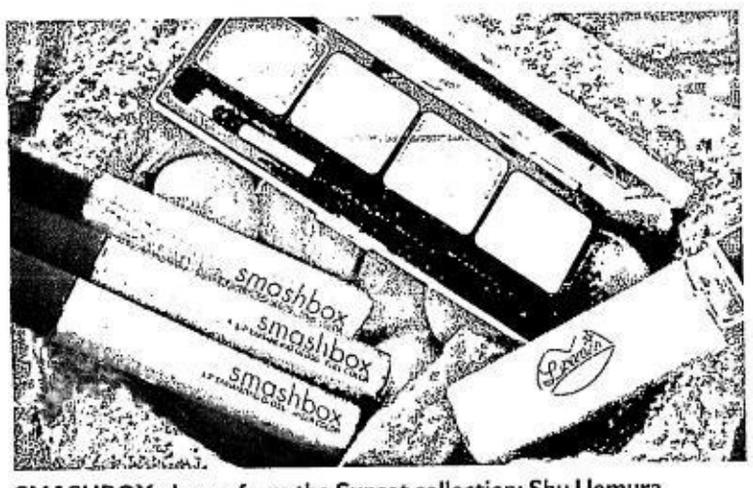
For the fashion-cautious, why, the stormy gray sky is a perfect background for splashing some color and variety onto your outfits!

Footwear, for instance, does not have to be limited to closed shoes. In fact, you don't have to wear your most ancient sneakers all the time to get through the wet months (especially since canvas sneakers take a long time to dry and breed bacteria easily). Depending on your activities for the day, you can still wear sandals or flip-flops, as long as you're sure that you won't be wading into germ-filled water. It pays to shell out a little extra cash for branded shoes since they're built to withstand harsh environments.

For light drizzles and moderate rain showers, go for a durable pair of sandals or flip-flops, not the flimsy kind that will easily slide off your foot. Although many people have balked at their classic clog model, we recommend Crocs because they're perfect for the weather. Slip-resistant and comfortable, they're great for trudging through wet pavements and slippery surfaces.

You might be thinking that wearing shoes with holes totally defeats the purpose of protecting your feet, but we beg to differ. Actually, it's more hygienic, because the holes enable the water to trickle out and allow your feet to breathe and dry faster. Remember, bacteria love moist environments!

Aside from the ever-popular ballet flats, Crocs has introduced several new models that even fashion-savvy girls will love, so you don't have to squirm every time someone looks at your feet when you're wearing them. Tip: although they're



SMASHBOX glosses from the Sunset collection; Shu Uemura Boutique Birthday lip palette; and Liparazzi gloss

NUCELLE'S mandelic acid skincare line

THE BODY Shop two-in-one blush

Looking good, rain or shine

Nothing ruins a great skintone like blemishes, so whether you're bronze- or alabaster-skinned, keep it clear all the time

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

THE DISADVANTAGE OF having only two seasons in the Philippines is that many people are limited to two looks throughout the entire year: tanned during the summer months, and pale for the rest of the year (save for those who frequently visit the beach).

So while many students are going out into the stormy weather to head back to school, other countries are just launching their new summer skincare and makeup collections.

Luckily, we have access to many of the newest collections, so you can go year-round summery or rainy-weather pale according to the skintone that you want (as some people look better with tanned and golden skin, while others feel better with creamy, fair skin).

However, whether you're bronze- or alabaster-skinned, it is important to keep it clear all the time. Nothing ruins a great skintone like blemishes. If you're plagued with hyperpigmentation and dark scars from old pimples (Asians are usually more prone to these than wrinkles), then go for a lightening and brightening regimen to clear up your skin.

FLAVO-C serums give a shot of vitamin C for clearer skin.

Mandelic acid

You've heard of glycolic acid, which stimulates skin renewal by peeling the surface layer of the skin. However, mandelic acid, an alpha-hydroxy acid, is supposedly better for Asian skin than glycolic because of its antioxidant properties and slower penetration rate, which results in less irritation. Ask your dermatologist which formula works better for you.

For products that contain mandelic acid, we like Mama Lotion, a serum that promises to fade acne scars and hyperpigmentation, as well as reduce the appearance of large pores and scaly skin.

Also, try the NuCelle mandelic set, which contains a cleanser, toner, moisturizer with sunscreen, night cream, mint scrub and a potent serum. However, when you are on the mandelic-acid regimen, don't forget to use sunscreen even when the weather's gloomy.

To supplement your whitening/brightening routine, apply a few drops of Flavo-C serum, which contains various concentrations of vitamin C and gingko bilboa, both powerful antioxidants.

Also try Shu Uemura's reformulated White Recovery essence, which contains plant extracts to brighten the skin, and L'Oreal White Perfect Double Essence Booster, which combines two brightening essences in one pump bottle.

LANCÔME Star Bronzer spray and Smashbox bronzing powder

The rainy season is actually a good time to start skin renewal, as there is less sun exposure during the rainy months. Aside from acquiring a fairer, smoother complexion, you are also less susceptible to blemishes acquired from dead skin cells that clog your pores.

Well-moisturized skin

If you prefer to remain bronzed for the season (or if you're visiting other countries during their summer months and want to flaunt your naturally tanned complexion), keep in mind that you should have well-moisturized skin to maintain your color.

Dry, flaky skin peels off faster and results in an uneven skintone—not flattering, whether you're fair-skinned or not. Try out Kiehl's Crème de Corps, which is enriched with natural oils to hydrate even the driest skin. The brand promises results in 10 days. Pat chapped lips with Kiehl's Lip Balm No. 1, a cult favorite that soothes without the glistening, overly oily look that characterizes most balms and glosses.

Enhance your golden skin with a spray-on tan booster. Lancôme's Star Bronzer spray is transfer-resistant and imparts an almost metallic finish, while ModelCo's airbrush tan will make you look like you spent the better part of the day under the sun. Spray them on your legs to make them look longer and thinner, and on your arms for a toned, glistening finish.

Bronze skin looks best with a light glow; matte bronzer has a tendency to make people look dirty instead of golden. For light to medium coverage, use Shu Uemura Natural Glow Finish powder foundation, which contains light-reflecting particles to make your skin glow.

Dust on a light bronzer such as Smashbox Fusion Soft Lights in Sunset (a combination of bronze, yellow gold and pink), or Smashbox The Strip bronzing powder (which comes with a kabuki brush).

For the eyes and face, try the Bobbi Brown Surf and Sand palette, a combination of beige, pink and aqua—perfect for extending that summer-babe look.

Lips are still soft and juicy this season. Check out Lancôme's Juicy Glace juicy tube, a cooling and plumping gloss that smells and tastes like ice cream; or the Shu Uemura Boutique Birthday lip palette (which has lip colors in deep red, salmon pink, tangerine and sparkly clear).

Latest lip gloss

If you're up for something trendier, you'll like Liparazzi, Beauty Bar's latest lip-gloss line. The Hollywood-theme glosses contain

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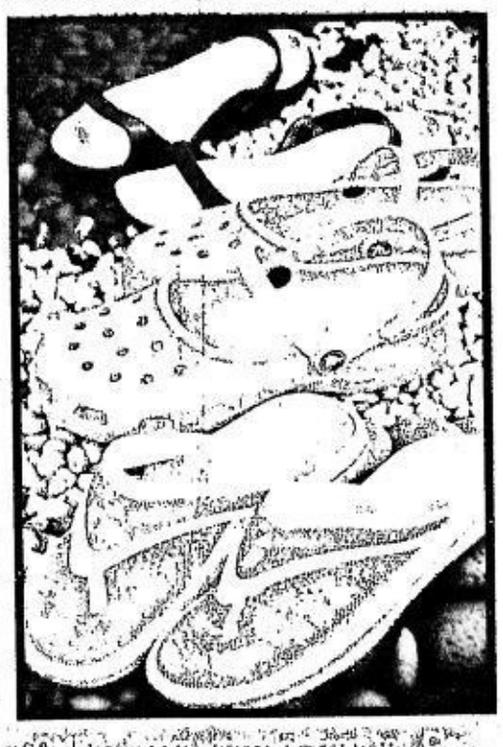
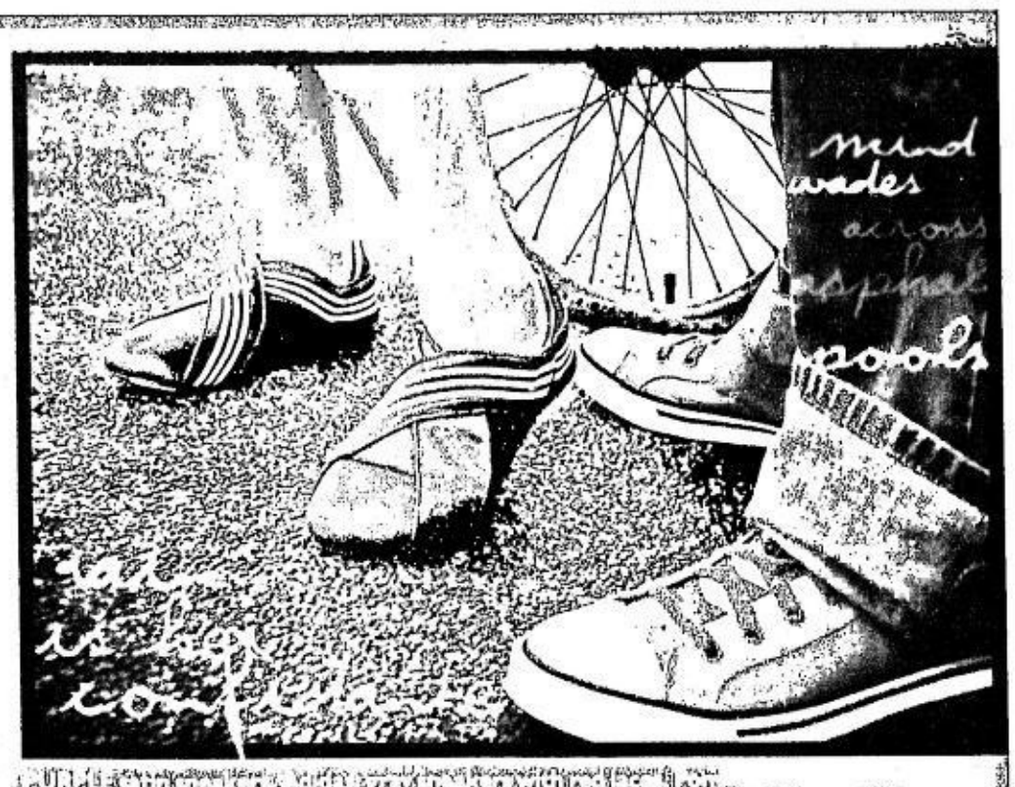


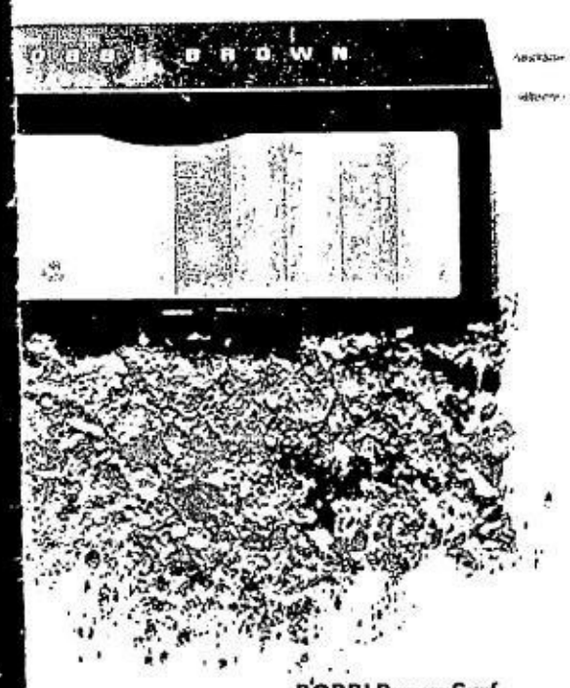


PINK and brown Cleo Crocs

supposedly indestructible, don't forget to wash and wipe them dry once you get home, as moisture accumulation may cause rubber to crack.

If you'd rather not let go of your precious sneakers, try to inject a bit of style with bright colors and funky designs. Hip sneaker-makers like Adidas and Pony have geared up for the season with functional yet stylish new pairs for the rain-beleaguered student. Pair them with striped socks and colored laces for an edgy Harajuku girl feel, or wear them with bright raincoats and funky hats to go beyond your usual shirt-and-jeans combination.

Graphic design by Ryan Fernandez
Styled by Bianca Consunji
Models: Cheska de Guzman and Luigi Onglao



BOBBI Brown Surf and Sand palette

and lights in the wand applicators, so
ıpply your gloss inside the car. We like
Rope, a firehouse-engine red hue, and
re, a princess-y shade of pastel pink.
ing for cheek color that won't budge in
ı? Dab on Bloom's lip-and-cheek tint in
ır a naturally red flush. Girls who sim-
n't let go of their pink blush will love
dy Shop's Duo Blush in Salvador Blush,
contains an iridescent pale pink cream
ı be topped off with the accompanying
candy powder blush.
going for a bronzed hue? Check out
dy Shop's pearly lip-and-cheek stain in
go Bay.
n about to encounter heavy rains, skip
vder formulas and stick to creams and
, which adhere to the skin better than
and are less likely to streak. However,
the rainy season, less is more as you'll
ok a lot worse if your makeup goes
ı the middle of the day. Instead, work
r skin so you can get away with less
ı (cream blush, lip gloss and water-
ıascara is ideal).
weather also can be a drag for your
ıt's not constantly damp from the rain,
rizzy from the humid weather. Make it
to always condition your hair in order
d windswept moments, as dry hair
orse when it's been blown in all direc-
the wind.
y-haired girls will love Oleo-Curl, the
ı the line of moisturizing products by
se. It contains shampoo, conditioner
el masque to keep your hair hydrated
ıin or shine.

*uCelle, Flavo-C, and Mama Lotion, call
2 or 6723599. Smashbox, ModelCo
ırazzi are available at Beauty Bar; Lan-
ıd Shu Uemura at Rustan's; The Body
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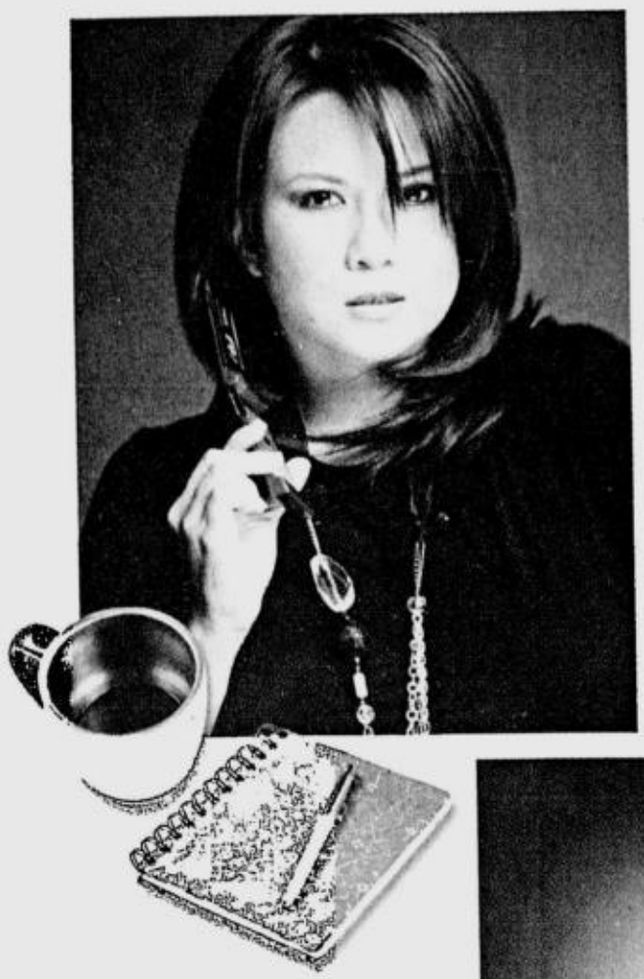
A Passion For Fashion and Function.



The **Nokia N76** is the computer done beautifully. This newest model in the Nokia Nseries features the latest in multimedia technology and modern design. It recognizes and meets the demands of the sophisticated, discerning and most of all, passionate mobile user. With its many advanced features and slim, sleek packaging, the **Nokia N76** fulfills the individual's strong desire for both style and substance in their lifestyle.

MEGA editor Vicky Urieta says, "I tend to be obsessive-compulsive with my work as I am very detail-oriented. Perfect execution, as well as excellent delivery, are always a must." Her dedication and passion makes her accept no compromise when it comes to the style or substance of the magazine. Difficult as it is, it's what drives her to do her job.

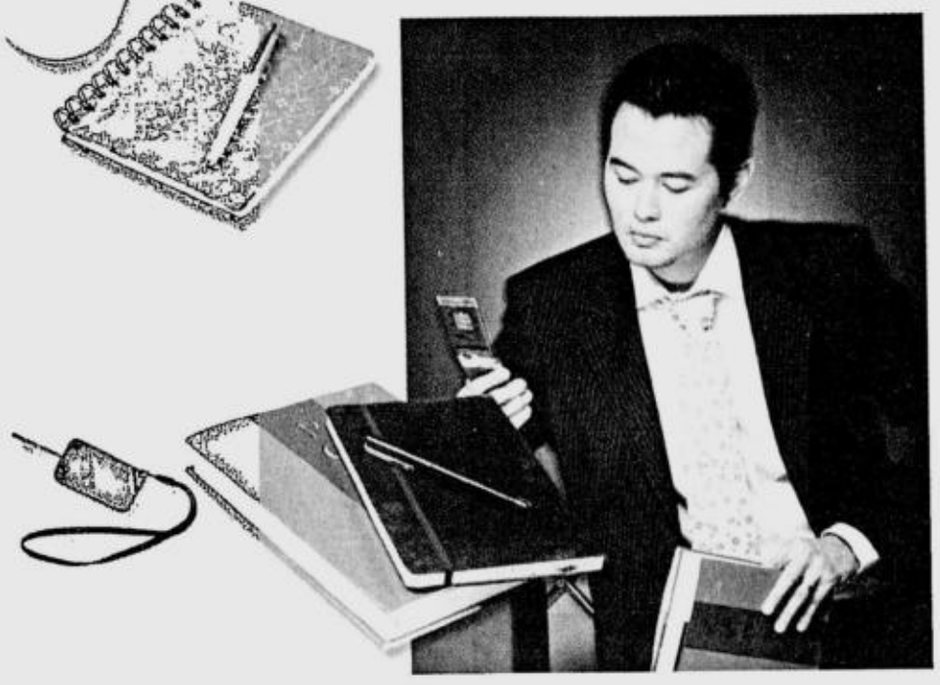
Not surprisingly, Vicky is as enthusiastic about the **Nokia N76** for its functions that are "just as impressive as its exterior." She says the new model in the Nseries embodies "strength, resilience and versatility."

Vicky Urieta
Editor, Mega Magazine

"Right after food, clothing and shelter, should be your mobile phone," says Rafa Alunan. Though far from being just a necessity, Rafa likes the **Nokia N76** design innovations like the "flip" feature. "Never had a phone that flipped open and close before. Now that I have one, I see why it's always a hit!"

"Fold it when you don't need it and its size is cut in half," he demonstrates. "A gentle push makes the palm-size gizmo into a tall and sexy mobile device."

Rafa Alunan
Entrepreneur

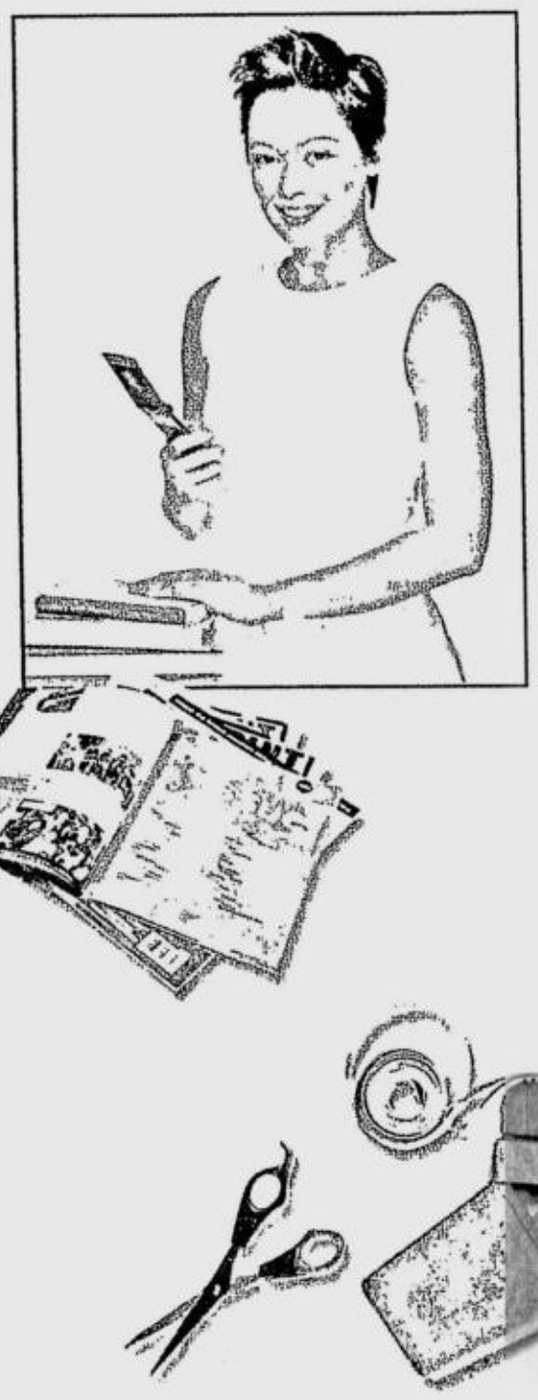


Master photographer Raymund Isaac knows that your skills as a craftsman enable you to take competent, good pictures. But to make your photographs a work of art requires something within the person taking the picture that can't be taught in schools. "It's difficult because you're dealing with so many variables - not just light or the equipment – you're dealing with people," he says. "If you don't have the passion, you can't do it."

"The **Nokia N76** works because it's absolutely what I require from my mobile," says Raymund, "It was designed for the professionals who do what they do because they have to. Not just because it's work." Without realizing it, Raymund just described himself.

Raymund Isaac
Master Lensman

NOKIA
Nseries



MYX Magazine Managing Editor Gabbie dela Rama is a no-frills gal who prefers to go directly-to-the-point. "I love music," is her simple reply when asked about her job. That's the same way she answers about being the editor-in-chief of FULLY BOOKED's in-house magazine. "I love books as well," she says, "I love my job – it's the only prerequisite I've got to pour everything I have into doing something."

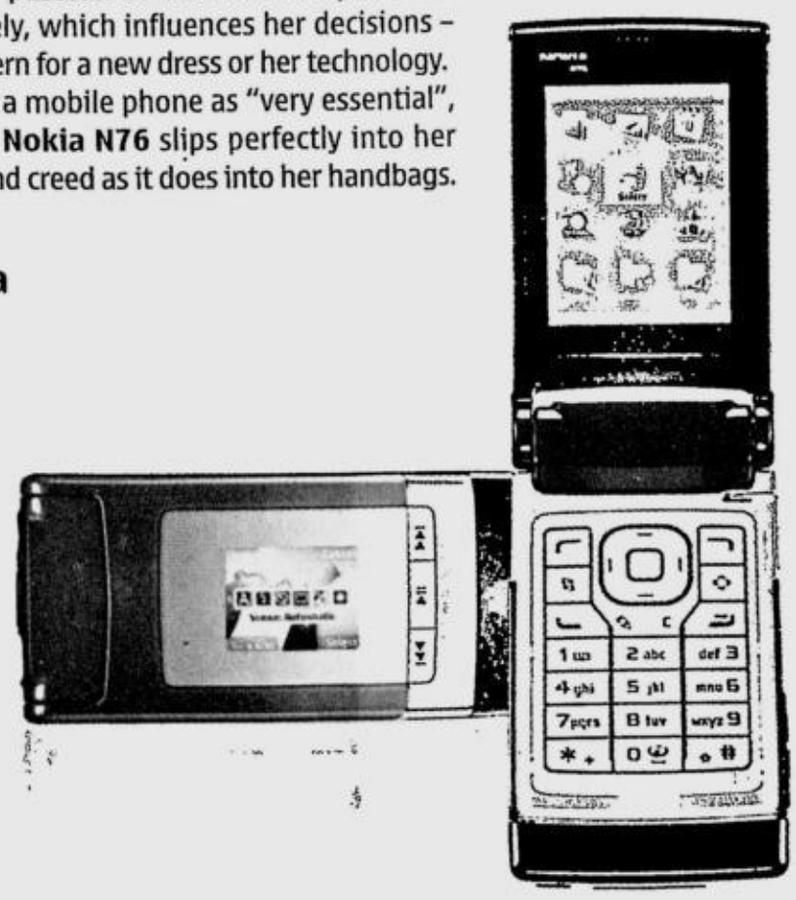
That approach is transferred to why she chose the **Nokia N76**. "The 26MB built-in memory can cope with my demands – especially, photos, radio and MP3 formats – a necessity when you're running a music magazine." But that's not all. "I can pretend it's a robot as well. I like robots."

Gabbie dela Rama
Editor-In-Chief, Fully Booked

Fashion designer/entrepreneur Kate Torralba describes herself as being "creative, multifaceted and expressive." Although you'd expect no different answer from someone in her field, Kate applies a certain daring that's hard not to find unique. "I'm not afraid to be different and love to inject a distinctive element in whatever I do," she says. "My style is always fun, feminine - always with a bit of quirk."

For Kate, it's her passion to set herself apart and be honest creatively, which influences her decisions – whether it's a pattern for a new dress or her technology. Describing having a mobile phone as "very essential", she says that the **Nokia N76** slips perfectly into her creative outlook and creed as it does into her handbags.

Kate Torralba
Creative Force



The **Nokia N76** is at the forefront of mobile technology and design innovation because of one reason – passion. The Nseries - especially its latest model, the **Nokia N76** - was produced with the same passion the individuals above apply in their own fields. The style and substance of their personalities make for a perfect combination.

Nokia N76. The computer done beautifully.

Rainy-day wisdom (learned the hard way)

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor
2bU! Correspondent

THE RAIN BRINGS MANY good things: abundance, comfort and adventure, just to name a few. For lovers, the rain means romance. For nature fans, it means clean soil and air and a bet-

RAINY-DAY/ D3

Great finds, big savings at SM

An exciting assortment of merchandise is pegged at up to **half price discounts** from **July 1 to 15** at 28 branches of SM Department Store.

To accommodate the expected surge in store traffic, stores are open until 10pm during the 15-day clearance event.

Shoppers are enjoined to check out the wide selection of merchandise at the Wears, Shoes, Bags, Accessories, and Luggage Departments.

Many more fantastic finds at equally fantastic discounts are up for grabs storewide!

Enjoy big savings on great selections! Don't miss out on the amazing deals you're sure to get during SM Department Store's mid-year clearance event.

MID-YEAR CLEARANCE SALE

up to 50%off on great selections!

JULY 1-15

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2353, Series of 2007

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Cagayan De Oro • Bicutan • Sucat • Lucena • Baguio • Marilao • Dasmariñas • San Lazaro • Batangas • Sta. Rosa • Clark • Mall of Asia • Lipa

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

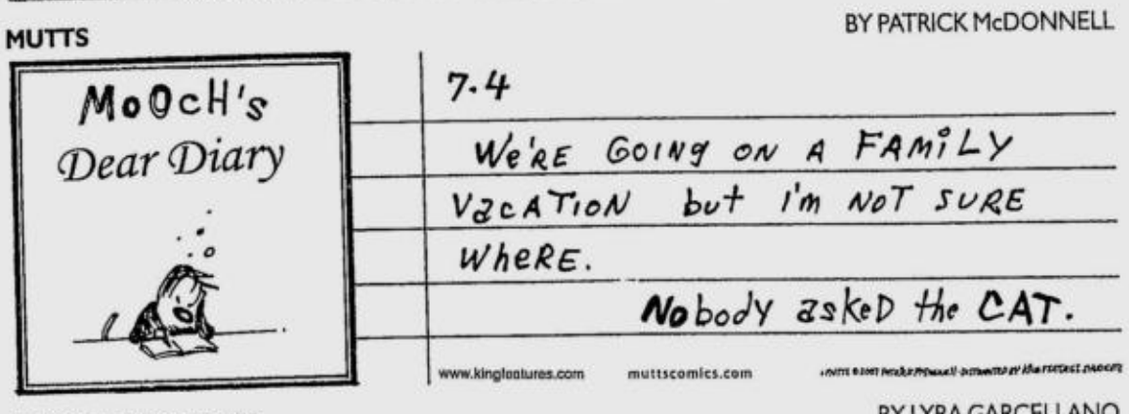
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

GARFIELD WORSHIPS HIS GOD

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

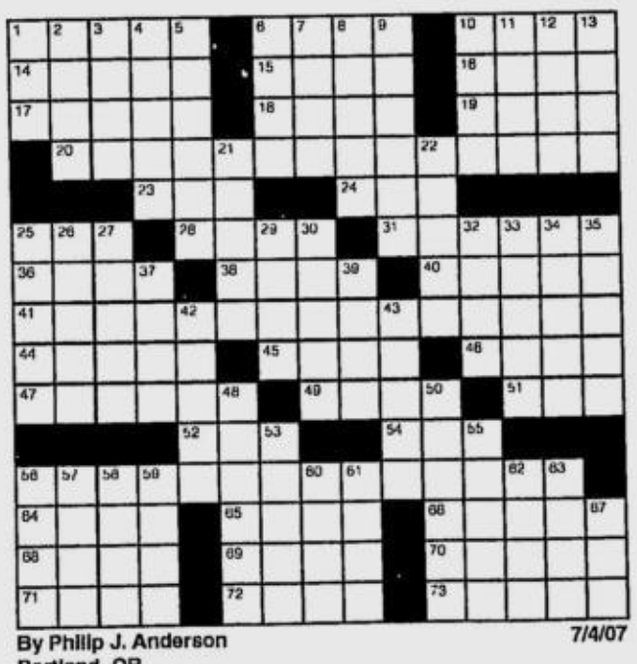
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
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10 Outline
14 U.S. family of painters
15 Soprano Gluck
16 Steakhouse specification
17 Revealed
18 Cafe au __
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20 Citation in 1948
23 Five after five
24 Instant lawn
25 AAA offering
28 Fusses
31 Earth pigment
36 Caps the cupcakes
38 Notable years
40 Scout group
41 Citation in the military
44 Pariah
45 __-majesty
46 Not bad
47 State positively
49 Cowboy's chum
51 DC bigwig
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54 Extinct bird
56 Citation in traffic
64 Old-time cartoonist
65 Director Ephron
66 Metric weights, briefly
68 One sax
69 Composer Khachaturian
70 Obliterate
71 Hammer part
72 Golfer "Champagne Tony"
73 Saint-Saens' "__ macabre"

DOWN
1 LAPD alert
2 Remini of "The King of Queens"
3 Pol base
4 On one's toes
5 Suez Canal outlet
6 __ Alto, CA
7 Norwegian saint
8 Skips
9 Feeling of sympathy
10 Quarry
11 Fill the hold
12 Opera highlight
13 "..., __ the twain shall meet"
21 Ceased
22 Mrs. Bunker
25 Uris book, "__ Pass"
26 Post-workout woes
27 Nest noises
29 Spoken
30 Starchy root
32 Cupid
33 Kiddy taboos
34 Hangman's knot
35 Chef's garb
37 Hook's mate
39 1998 NL MVP
42 Goofed
43 Physicist Enrico
48 Having three parts
50 Tied up to a pier
53 Have a sound sleep?
55 Director Kurosawa
56 Ginger cookie
57 Ashen
58 Punta del __
59 School collar
60 Apothecary's measure
61 Writer Janowitz
62 Dash
63 Fling
67 Bishopric

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
7/4/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	T	E		D	I	V		S	M	E	A	R	S
A	R	I	D		O	D	E		E	A	R	T	H	A
G	I	G	I		O	E	R		R	E	A	V	O	W
M	A	R	C	H	M	A	D	N	E	S	S			
A	N	I	T	A	S		I	B	N			Y	O	U
S	A	S	S	Y		N	C	A	A	H	O	O	P	S
					S	I	T		D	U	N	D	E	E
C	A	N	A	S	T	A		B	E	M	O	A	N	S
A	L	U	M	N	I		S	A	D					
F	I	N	A	L	F	O	U	R		W	A	S	P	S
E	T	S			F	R	I		B	A	T	T	L	E
			S	W	E	E	T	S	I	X	T	E	E	N
S	A	M	O	A	N		O	U	T		E	V	A	S
C	R	A	D	L	E		R	C	T		S	I	D	E
H	I	S	S	E	D		S	H	Y		T	E	S	S

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7/4/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're never casual about things. You take pride in your achievements and what you do. You work hard to always do your best. You're skillful at counseling and giving advice because you have a desire to improve things whenever or wherever you can. (People trust you.) In the year ahead, your focus will be on your closest friendships and partnerships.
Birthdate of: Becki Newton, actress; Pam Shriver, tennis player/broadcaster; Bill Withers, singer/songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Some of you are enjoying reunions now. For whatever reason, home, family and your domestic scene are your primary focus now. Enjoy time with family members.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This continues to be a busy time for you. If you have an opportunity to take a short trip, grab it. Talk to siblings. And pay your phone bill, because your communication with others will be interrupted.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Money issues from the past, or perhaps even past employers, are back in your face again. Consider this a second chance to finish things nicely.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Mercury is retrograde in your sign, which means that all kinds of people from your past are suddenly popping up again. Ex-partners especially are likely to contact you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful time to do research into past events. You'll definitely find the answers you're looking for. Dig deep!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Friends from the past probably are back in your life again. It's good to have history with others. Enjoy this chance to catch up on the bad old days.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's very likely that you'll talk to parents and bosses you haven't seen for a while. Retrograde Mercury has a way of bringing these people back into your life just now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you're concerned with research, educational matters, publishing and the media, your best successes will be with projects you've already started. Doors to the past will open easily now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an excellent time to clear up confusion about shared property, debt, taxes and other people's resources. Any kind of research definitely will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Ex-partners are back in your life again. For some, this will be a chance for closure; others might rekindle something that was once lost.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have to expect delays, confusion, technical glitches, lost paperwork and checks late in the mail at work. It's just par for the course right now. Allow extra time for everything.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Old flames might try to contact you now. This is also a good time to settle old matters connected with children, sports or vacations.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

8	9	2	1		4	5	6	7
1					6			
3					7			
7	6	5			9	1	2	
			8					4
			5					6
			7					5
			4					1
4	7	3			5	9	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★
7/04

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	9	6	3	4	7	5	8	2
4	5	7	2	6	8	9	3	1
2	3	8	1	9	5	4	7	6
3	6	4	5	7	1	2	9	8
8	2	5	9	3	6	1	4	7
9	7	1	4	8	2	3	6	5
5	8	3	7	2	9	6	1	4
7	4	2	6	1	3	8	5	9
6	1	9	8	5	4	7	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★
7/03

A flood of rain songs

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT the rain that is very romantic and poetic. Maybe it's the rhythmic sound of the raindrops falling or the gloomy atmosphere that rain brings. Or maybe it's the fact that raindrops are like teardrops, falling hard during the stormiest days.

Rain is also the perfect backdrop for both the romantically hopeful singles stuck at home and the sweet couples enjoying cappuccino in a coffee shop or at home.

It's the perfect soundtrack, too, for the unattached ones peeking out their windows and daydreaming of love and of head-over-feet-in-love couples running hand in hand for some cover.

The following are musical odes to heaven's tears, preferably listened to when the clouds are crying for maximum effect.

'Rainy Days and Mondays'
The Carpenters

About: Finding yourself running to someone who loves you whenever you're depressed because of "rainy days and Mondays"

Great line: "Funny but it seems that it's the only thing to do/ Run and find the one who loves me."

'My Sunshine Has Come'
Angie Stone

About: Having had enough of all life's drama and problems

Great line: "My sunshine has come/ And I'm all cried out/ And there's no more rain in this cloud."

'Come In Out of the Rain'
Wendy Moten

About: Being welcomed back into a relationship even after straying

Great line: "Some people spend a lifetime looking for love/ And I had love right here all the time."

'Crying in the Rain'
Art Garfunkel

About: Someone hurting but who doesn't want the cause of his heartache to know so he'll just cry in the rain so that she "won't know the rain from the tears in my eyes."

Great line: "I've got my pride and I know how to hide/ All the sorrow and pain/ I'll do my crying in the rain."

'Flood'
Jars of Clay

About: Being overpowered by problems to the point of falling into temptation

Great line: "Downpour on my soul/ Splashing in the ocean, I'm losing control/ Dark sky all around/ I can't feel my feet touching the ground."

'Here Comes the Rain Again'
The Eurythmics

About: Unrequited love as compared with falling rain

Great line: "Here comes the rain again/ Raining in my head like a tragedy/ Tearing me apart like a new emotion."

'I Can See Clearly Now'
Johnny Nash

About: Being positive after overcoming adversity

Great line: "Here is the rainbow I've been praying for/ It's gonna be a bright, bright sunshiny day."

'I Made It Through the Rain'
Barry Manilow

About: Surviving life's storms and not losing one's self-respect in the process

Great line: "I made it through the rain and found myself respected/ by the others who got rained on, too, and made it through."

'I'm Only Happy When It Rains'
Garbage

About: Happiness derived from misery, rain, sad songs

Great line: "I'm only happy when it rains/ You wanna hear about my new obsession?/ I'm riding high upon a deep depression/ I'm only happy when it rains/ Pour some misery down on me."

'Kiss the Rain'
Billie Myers

About: Missing someone who you are afraid might be tempted to cheat

Great line: "If your lips feel hungry and tempted/ Kiss the rain and wait for the dawn"

'Umbrella'
Rihanna

About: Sticking it out with a friend no matter what

Great line: "These fancy things will never come in between/ You're part of my entity, here for infinity."

'Rhythm of the Rain'
Floyd Cramer

About: Having a hard time moving on after being dumped

Great line: "Rain, please tell me, now, does that seem fair/ For her to steal my heart away when she don't care?/ I can't love another when my heart's somewhere far away."

'No Rain'
Blind Melon

About: Wanting to have someone

Great line: "I just want someone to say to me/ I'll always be there when you wake."

'Through the Rain'
Mariah Carey

About: Believing that one can survive life's challenges

Great line: "And when the rain blows, as shadows grow close/ Don't be afraid, there's nothing you can't face."

'Come Clean'
Hilary Duff

About: Wanting to go back to the good old days and starting over

Great line: "I'm shedding, shedding every color/ Tryin' to find a pigment of truth beneath my skin."

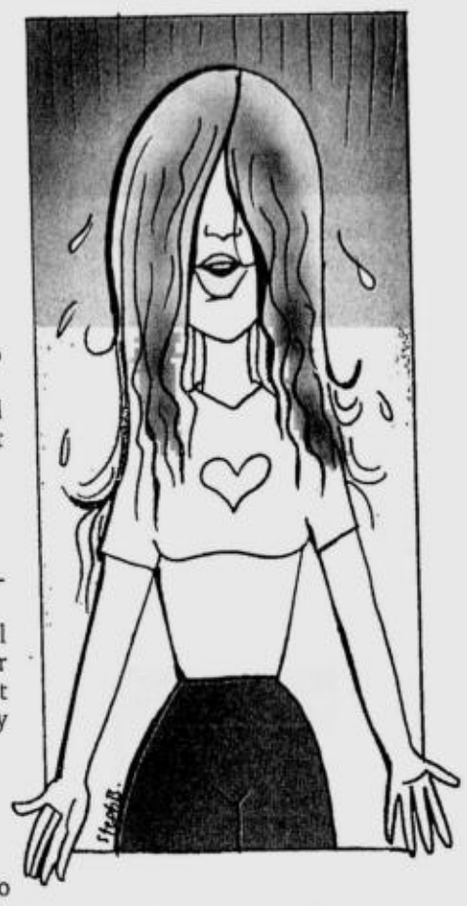
'Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head'
Burt Bacharach

About: Staying positive despite problems

Great line: "Cryin's not for me/ 'Cause I'm never gonna stop the rain by complainin'"

'Rain'
Donna Cruz

About: Unrequited love



Great line: "Somebody owns your heart? It will never be mine."

'Ulan'
Rivermaya

About: Remembering past rainy-day moments

Great line: *Daan-daang larawan ang nagdaraan sa aking paningin/ Daan-daang nakaraan ibinabalik ng simoy ng hangin.*

'Pumapatak ang Ulan'
Apo Hiking Society

About: The life of someone who is lazy and poor during a rainy day

Great line: *"Pumapatak na naman ang ulan sa bubong ng bahay/ Di maiwasang gumawa ng di inaasahang bagay."*

'Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Kita'
Regine Velasquez

About: Happy rainy moments spent with a loved one

Great line: *"Pagmasdan ang ulan untiunting tumitila/Ikaw rin magpapaalam na."*

'Basang-basa sa Ulan'
Aegis

About: Life's challenges

Great line: *"Heto ako, basang-basa sa ulan/ Walang masisilungan, walang malalapitan."*

E-mail the author at marksablan_2bu@yahoo.com

Rainy-day wisdom...

From page D1

ter world to live in.

For others not so fortunate, however, rain can spell disaster. Whether you commute to school or work or drive your own vehicle, many of us have at least one bummer of a story about wet, soggy days. Here are some of them:

I was at the mall when it suddenly rained. I forgot to bring my umbrella and I had to go to school, so I bought a new one with whatever was left of my very tight daily allowance. The umbrella didn't last five minutes, but good thing I was under an overpass. Unfortunately, a taxi drove by so fast that after just seconds the white pants I was wearing had brown splatters all over it, and I was left looking like an army cadet. To make matters worse, I still had to go to school. And because all that was left of my money was spent on a sucky umbrella, I had to wait for the rain to stop to take a jeepney. I was late, I was drenched and I was broke. Please don't buy substandard umbrellas. **—Diane, 26, architect**

We were in Pagudpud shooting landscapes. It had been raining all day for three days. We got stranded in a beach hut far from the resort we were staying in, so we had to run from the rocky shores to the hut with wet bags, wet camera gear, tripod, everything! We knew that if our cameras got wet, we were screwed. We protected our cameras first before ourselves. We used banana leaves, shirts, whatever we could get our hands on. We stayed there for a time, wearing only shorts. But it was bearable because of the thought na *mas mahal magpa*-repair *ng* camera *kesa magkasakit*! **—Nin, 25, photographer**

In high school, I discovered a secret relationship between two married teachers when I got stranded in the rain one time. It was around 6 p.m. when the drizzle turned into a nasty episode, and I was stuck in the school gym. Then I saw these two teachers holding hands and whispering to each other. I was so embarrassed when the two of them saw me there, so I just left and walked out into the rain. **—James, 27, abstractor**

I was in prep when there was this typhoon that left us stranded in school. The DECS order to suspend classes came too late. We were already in school and Pasay Road and Pasong Tamo were already knee-deep in murky water. My *yaya* and I were both getting hungry and desperate to get home, but in order to do that, we had to reach the jeepney terminal near Makati Cinema Square. So she put a raincoat on me and carried me on her back for the entire 750-meter walk in thigh-high waters, careful to avoid open manholes. She lost both her slippers during the walk, so by the time we got home she was barefoot. **—Jonjon, 26, software developer**

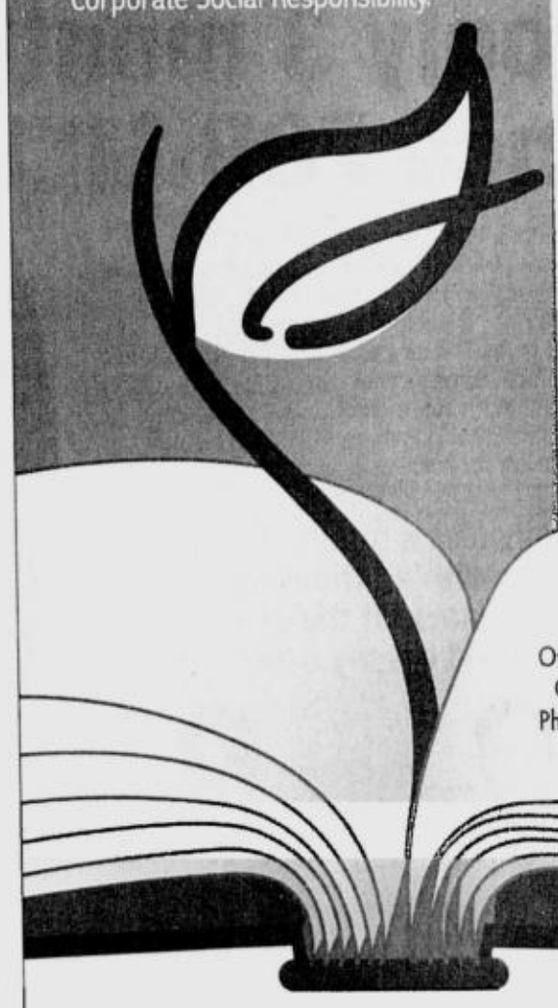
I was in grade six then. I commuted from St. Mary's to Antipolo and took this Cubao-Diamond jeepney ride from school. *Talsik ng talsik ang tubig sa loob ng* jeep! The rain was merciless. When I got off, the flood was knee-deep and *amoy imburnal na ako*. I was drenched and stinky! I was supposed to meet my Mom at Farmer's Market but I thought I got left behind so I took a cab to my cousin's house in Project 7. I was crying so hard inside the cab. I even left my wallet and water jug because I was so tense. **—Mitch, 25, government slave**

I got stranded in the car when I was in 4th year high school. I slept there because *lagpas-tao ang baha sa* may Brookside, Cainta. *Parang laging may* calamity *pag binabaha ang lugar na yun*. I was there from 6 p.m. to the next day, or around 10 hours. My mom's friends got her out of our house using a small boat that crossed the flooded area, and I had to stay inside the car and wait until the flood had subsided so I could drive out. I was stuck between Buli Bridge and Baho Bridge. I had no food, no water, and guess where I had to pee. **—Christian, 28, abstractor**

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com

Companies that are built to last depend not only on their financial success but on the well-being of society and the sustainability of the environment.

Learn how businesses harvest growth and success with Corporate Social Responsibility.



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Road safety for young people

By Vic Rosales
2bU! Correspondent

ROAD SAFETY IS NO accident—so goes the slogan for the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week, setting the tone for the discussions at the World Youth Assembly for Road Safety recently at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

A recent study by the World Health Organization pointed to road accident as the leading cause of death for people aged 10-24. Thus, it makes sense that advocacy efforts on road safety should target the youth.

In his opening remarks, UN secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon said: "On the average, road-traffic injuries cost low- and middle-income countries more than one percent of the gross national product of developing nations."

That road safety goes hand in hand with sustainable development is quite obvious, thus the need to address it by making young people "agents of change," Ban said.

WHO director-general Margaret Chan noted the youth's role in making a difference. She said deaths caused by road traffic accidents (RTA) are a public health concern. She noted that in developing nations, urban migration has increased road use even as higher income has allowed more people to buy cars.

She lamented that developmental planning does not seem to accommodate the needs of all road users—such as bikers, motorcyclists and pedestrians. She also noted that roads are not suited for high-speed traffic. Most vulnerable to RTAs are reportedly the kids playing on the streets as well as the pedestrians.

Some solutions

Jacques Barrot, vice-president for transport of the European Commission, said two areas must be addressed regarding road safety: infrastructure and attitude.

He said it is good standard practice to put necessary barricades for roads considered accident-prone. But he also proposed that each time a road is constructed, a safety impact/collision report must be made.

Barrot added the changing of rear-view mirrors on lorries or motor trucks, for better view of motorcycles, must be made mandatory. He lauded car manufactures for their continuous improvement of collision zones in cars.

Barrot further recommended that a car-assessment program be established for people buying cars. This will help inform car buyers on the important parts of a car as well as its various safety features. He also recommended that electronic stability control be made mandatory in vehicles.

Barrot also suggested that safety devices be enhanced only in huge vehicles, but also in smaller ones.

For Europe, he proposed the centralized issuance of a driver's license that would be honored anywhere in the continent. This is to prevent people from going to another country to apply for a license if theirs is revoked in their home country. This could also stem fake licenses.

Barrot likewise noted that one-fifth of road traffic accidents in Europe are from motorcycle use. He said if this trend continues until 2010, the statistics could rise to one-third, which might pressure the European Union to create a charter for road safety.

Doing their share

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair emphasized the importance of road safety in developing countries.

Blair cited World Bank statistics that placed at US$100 billion the total amount spent yearly by developing countries on road injuries, in effect hampering these countries' fight against poverty and other socio-development problems.

UN General Assembly president Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa said she supported the young delegates' call to action. She reported that the UN had called on its member-states to mark the third Sunday of November every year, World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims. (www.un.org).

Other people who spoke in the assembly were musician Moby, Bright Oywaya, who was paralyzed from the neck down after surviving a mishap, and Peter Geszti, whose relative was a victim of a crash.

Oywaya recounted her difficult 10-month recovery in a hospital that lacked the facilities for crash victims like her. She said 60 percent of cases in the Spinal Injury Hospital came from RTAs.

Geszti recalled the death of his relative who died at 24. The victim was drunk when the car he was driving at 190 kph crashed off a bridge. The maximum allowable speed was only 50 kph.

Safety insights

The young road-safety ambassadors then took turns sharing insights on road safety.

A delegate from Zambia, Precious Mumbi, talked about her experiences, validating some RTA statistics:

- Males are more likely to be killed in an RTA than females.
- Wearing a helmet reduces the risk of death by almost 40 percent and the risk of severe injury by 70 percent in motorcycles.
- Low visibility of both motorists and pedestrians is a major reason for road collisions.
- Child restraints can reduce death among infants by 70 percent. For children below 4 years old, by 50 percent.

AUTHOR Vic Rosales and two other delegates at the UN Road Safety Youth Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland

Road mishaps are the leading cause of death of young people worldwide

Reckless racing

A Formula One driver, Alex Wurz, presented a video of a crash involving a car driving at nearly 300 kph. He said racing is a reckless sport and that ignoring road safety is "not cool."

In fact, he said, road safety lies at the core of Formula One races because participating vehicles must ensure the safety of the drivers whose cars are moving at the highest speeds.

Wurz said racing enthusiasts should not use commercial vehicles and not to race in roads not suitable for high-speed racing. Race tracks are often built with strong safety barriers and a safety crew/ambulance is always there for them in the case of an emergency, Wurz added.

A youth-oriented project in Argentina had the youth going to drinking pubs with a breathalyzer. Those who failed the test received a sticker that said: "I failed the alcohol test, someone drive for me!" Even cuter: "I've drunk too much, could you take me home?"

The campaign also used wrist bands and other popular trinkets to drive home the message of road safety. It also emphasized the importance of donning complete motorcycle gear to give the driver and passenger full protection.

Delegates from Australia talked about initiatives from both their Transport Accident Commission and Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) involving random roadside breathalyzer tests. These groups promote safety through peer group discussion.

The RACV said it had been promoting a "don't-drive-when-tired program" to raise the level of awareness of those in the 18-25 age group about the dangers of taking on the wheel when exhausted.

RACV said it gives young people research-based tips on time management so that they need not unnecessarily end up tired. They promote their campaigns through their website www.dontdrivetired.au.

The Tunisian delegation met with students and people who had been handicapped by RTAs.

The Chinese contingent talked about their Road Safety Research Center and its efforts to identify factors affecting traffic safety. The center has done designed traffic-engineering projects to make the roads in China safer for the public.

I, for my part, shared our own initiatives on road safety. As one of the prime movers of the Ford Road Safety Youth Council, I have made young people aware of the importance of road safety.

The council promotes the Driver Education (RIDE) program. Visit www.freewebs.com/rsyc or fordrsyc.multiply.com.)

Declaration

Later, the delegates released 1,049 balloons, symbolizing the young lives lost daily on the world's roads.

Dr. Etienne Krug, director of the WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, declared the third Sunday of November as day of remembrance for deaths caused by RTAs.

Winners of the "Voices of Youth Creative Writing Competition" and the "Global Road Safety Film Competition," were also announced.

The event culminated in the adoption of the Youth Declaration for Road Safety.

The statement called on all sectors of society to promote road safety. It enjoined people from government and the private sector to help push the cause of road safety. As the conference theme puts it, road safety is no accident. And that it can be realized through the deliberate and concerted action of all.

Drive safely

A DRIVER'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS to check that his vehicle is in tiptop shape, to ensure a safe trip. Here are some other tips that drivers should keep in mind before pushing the gas pedal.

1. Safety belts are your number one safety device. Buckle up properly.
2. Maintain a proper sitting position with the seat back within one to two notches from upright and with your back against the seat.
3. Do not place objects and avoid placing arms or hands over the airbag cover.
4. Know and understand your vehicle safety features and car condition.
5. Never leave your spare tire at home. Tire maintenance is important for the safe handling of your vehicle. Visually inspect tires for inflation and wear before you use your car, and maintain a regular tire checkup and replacement schedule.
6. Properly restrain children aged 12 and below in the rear seat whenever possible. With children, it may not be possible to get a proper fit using adult safety belts alone. Use apt child safety seats or boosters.
7. To help maintain control of your vehicle, avoid sharp steering maneuvers and excessive speeds.
8. Do not drink and drive. If you know you've had too much alcohol, ask or call a friend or a family member to drive for you.
9. Be a responsible citizen. Acquaint yourself with traffic laws and common road scenarios and be sure to have your driving license with you at all times.
10. Pay attention to the road. This means not making phone calls or sending SMS while driving. Be mindful of your passengers' actions and be attentive to road signs, as well as other cars and passengers.

Source: Ford Road Safety Card

Beat the rains

SEE FIRST IF YOU REALLY MUST DRIVE. It is unsafe to drive on rainy days, so avoid it if possible. But if you must drive, keep your trips to a minimum to reduce your chances of being involved in an accident. Also, be sure to get updates on the latest traffic reports to see if your route is affected by flooding, traffic collisions or road closures.

1. Switch on your headlights. This will allow you to see better on hazy or rainy days, and it will aid other drivers to see you.
2. When driving on highways, stay in the center lanes as water tends to pool in the outside lanes.
3. Increase your following distance and watch for brake lights ahead.
4. Slow down. It takes longer to stop in wet weather.
5. Drive slowly through any puddle of uncertain depth, so when it's deeper than you thought, you can still go back.
6. Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground beneath it. You could be swept right off the road.

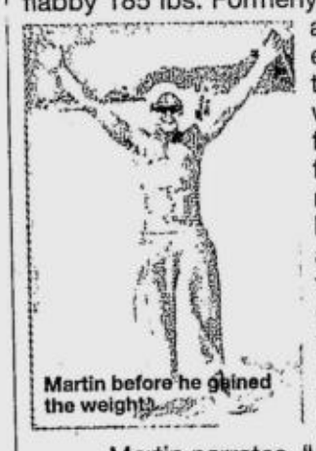
Check your car

1. Car maintenance is crucial to being safe. Even before the wet season, replace old or brittle wiper blades.
2. Check the tread and inflation of your tires. Properly maintained tires provide the added traction you will need on wet roads.
3. Keep a portable car starter handy. If your battery goes dead, you can start your car from inside the vehicle rather than having to get out of the car to do a conventional jumpstart with cables.

Source: Ford Road Safety Youth Council Safety Tips

Martin Jickain:
Lost 20 lbs. in only 3 months with Marie France FOR MEN

Martin Jickain never thought he would go from his model-form-155 lb. body to a flabby 185 lbs. Formerly an active gym buff and model, he never expected to gain up to 30 lbs. in excess weight. But his shift from bachelor to family man also meant more time for business and raising a family, and less time in the gym. (He is now married to actress Aiko Melendez and is father to their baby daughter Martheena.)



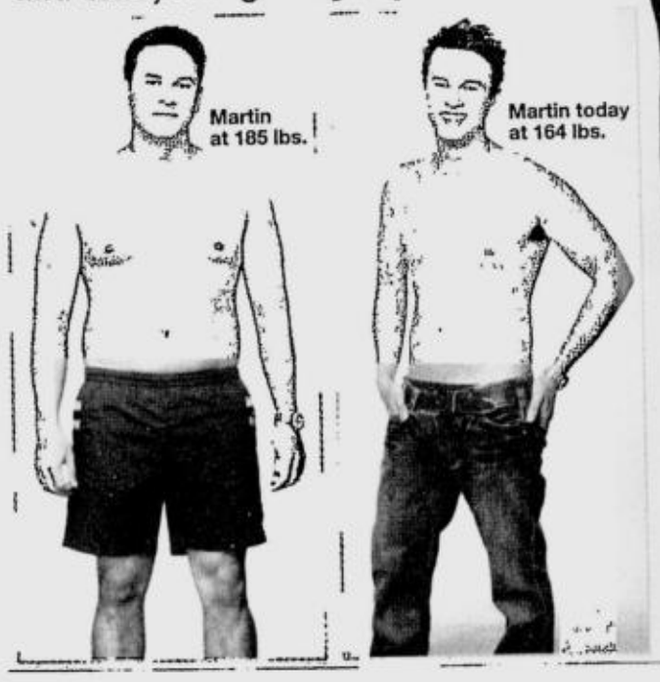
Martin before he gained the weight!

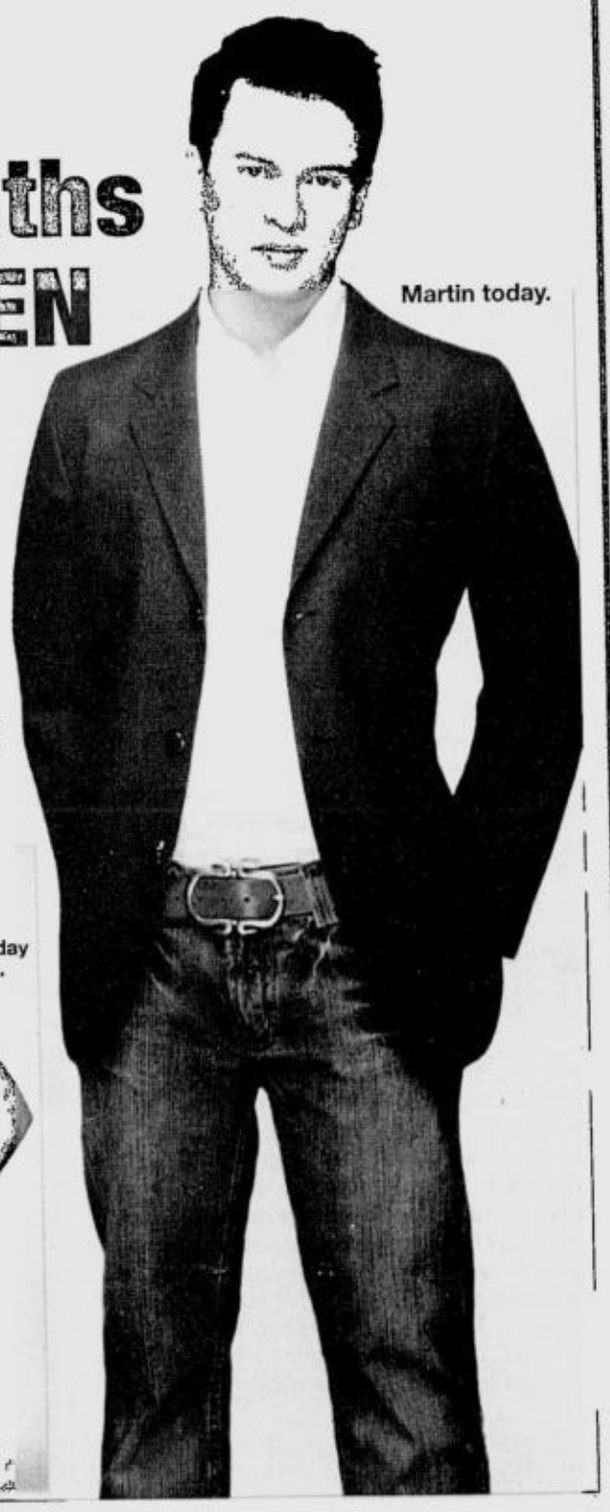
Martin narrates, "As much as I wanted to exercise in the gym regularly, I couldn't find the time. Usually when you go to the gym, you're too tired to do anything else!" Good thing he found a practical, effective solution: Marie France FOR MEN. With non-surgical, non-invasive treatments that required him to just lie down and relax, Martin couldn't have found a much better alternative. With treatments like Endermologie, Physique Inch-Loss, Electro-lipolysis and Fat Mobilization System, he lost an impressive total of 20 lbs. in 3 months.

However, Martin still plans to return to the gym nonetheless, in order to get back his model-like figure. "I used to have an 8-pack back then!" he recalls. The Marie France treatments enabled him to lose the excess weight that would make exercising a difficult task. Now, toning and firming his muscles are next on his to-do list.

Even with his current lean, "pre-gym" form now, friends and relatives who saw the weight loss were amazed. Martin himself is still in awe: "It sounds unbelievable, I know. But it's true! Thanks to Marie France, losing weight fast is possible - even for busy men like me!" With no exercise, surgery, pills or crazy diets, Marie France FOR MEN is still the best option for men who want to lose weight. Call 813-7959 for a FREE consultation.

"I actually lost a total of 20 lbs. in 3 months! With all the excess weight gone, I can now hit the gym to firm and tone, and get my 8-pack back!"





Martin today.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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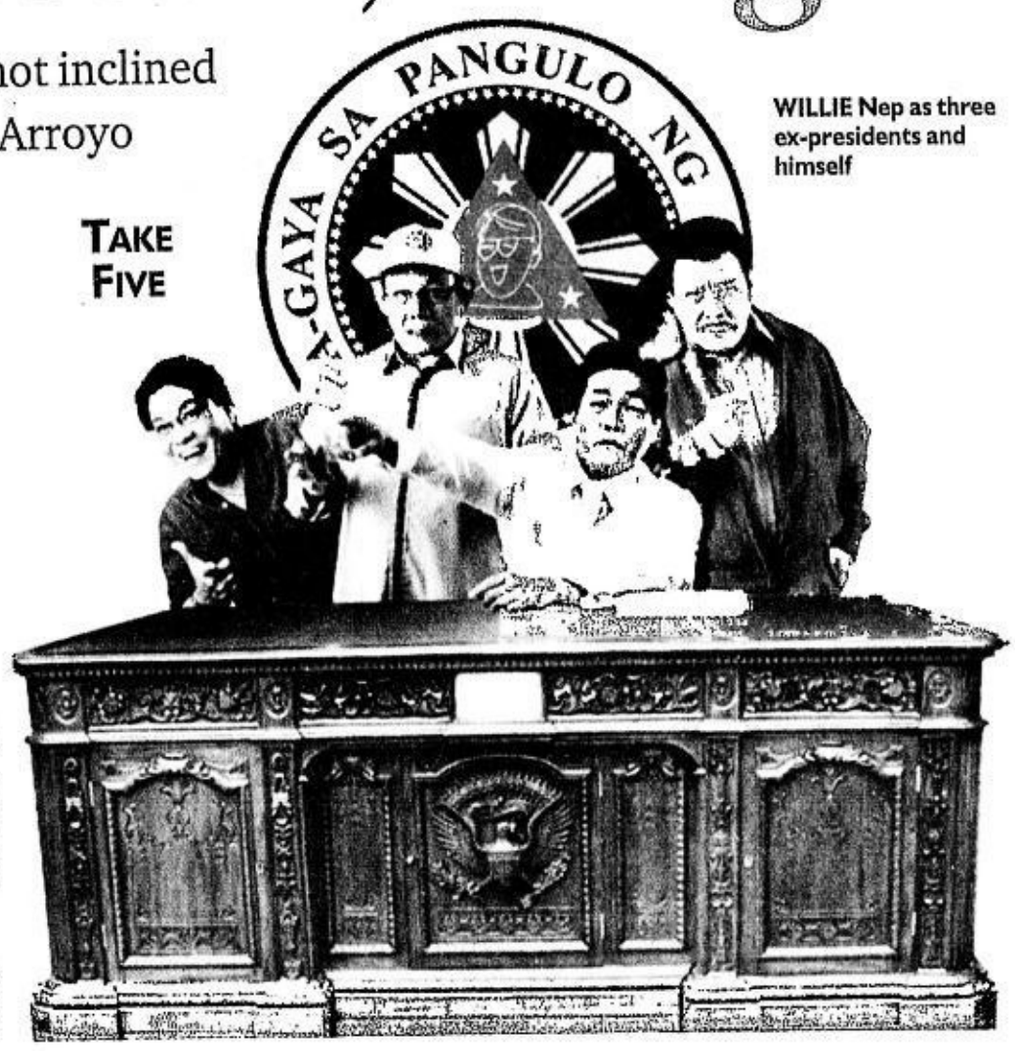
How to badmouth a friend Rushes /E5

All you need is, 'Laugh!'

... and why Willie Nep is not inclined to impersonate President Arroyo

TAKE FIVE



WILLIE Nep as three ex-presidents and himself

HE INSISTS, "ALL YOU NEED IS ... LAUGH!"

But this week, Willie Nep is "Feelin' Las Vegas." This means he's bringing to his show on Saturday, (July 7, 2007—triple 7, he notes) not only jokes but also the biggest draws in Vegas history: Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Sammy Davis Jr.

Plus, the Beatles.

That's in one Pinoy package, and for one night only, says the "Man of Many Voices and Faces."

INQUIRER Entertainment caught up with Willie late last week and asked about his other interest—politics—just to show that he has an (almost) serious side.

Who are more fun to impersonate—politicians or show biz folks?

They're both fun to do, but doing politicians bring me greater fulfillment because it impacts on the audience and, hopefully, agitates them, so they become more analytical about certain issues of social and political significance. Most of the time, show biz folks [routines] are limited to trivial matters, mostly personal.

You were an activist during the Marcos regime. Were there times when you had to make the cops at rallies laugh, just to ease the tension?

I guess any attempt to make the police laugh during such times is bound to be futile. The tension between the ralliers and cops would have prevented me from even thinking of doing that. Ask Secretary Rene de Villa. He refers to me as a "classmate from the other side." He remembers when we were on different sides of the street when he was still in the service.

Were you ever threatened with arrest for cracking jokes that authorities didn't find funny?

Many times—but it was done with a little bit of diplomacy (that was when I turned professional). Marcos men at one time invited me for coffee after a performance. The late Col. Rolly Abadilla threatened me with a libel suit. *Kaso,* Ilocano *ang nag-abugado sa akin, si* Joe Quirino- *kaya na-"tik it awey."*

Secretary Greg Cendaña tried to talk me out of doing [Marcos]. I said okay, but I couldn't resist the social responsibility. I did him the following night.

Erap personally accosted me while he was still mayor—vice president *na siya nang nagkabati kami uli.* Ping Lacson's men were more subtle, but nevertheless mentioned that they had "consulted with their lawyers."

What did you enjoy most about impersonating Marcos?

When people laughed at the jokes, it was pretty reassuring. It was a validation that they understood, even if the issues were presented as satire. There was one time in Laoag when we were invited to join him after a performance—which he had caught as an unexpected guest. He asked to have a photograph taken with me. Then he whispered, "*Siguro* frustrated Marcos *ka.* You're Marcos number two." I never got a copy of that snapshot but, to his credit, I realized he had a fine sense of humor.

ALL/ E3

Reality dance tilt back on its feet

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOR THE NEW SEASON OF the talent search program "U Can Dance," juror Maribeth Bichara flew to Cebu, Davao and Dagupan in search of contenders who are "serious about their craft."

The weekly reality dance competition, which resumes on ABS-CBN on July 14 after a six-month break, will now have contestants not just from Mega Manila but from all over the country.

"I didn't expect to see so many talented dancers during our visit to the provinces. If I could only bring all of them to Manila, I would," Bichara told INQUIRER Entertainment. "They're very, very good. I was so impressed that I felt like crying at times. These are people who aren't

REALITY/ E5

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From page E1

Who were your favorite subjects during the Cory years?

Even if I never did Cory—outside of a single vocal impression in an album—I still had to comment on, or make references to, her administration. My subjects were naturally her nemeses. At first there was Doy Laurel, then Enrile, and for the longest time, Gringo.

WILLIE Nep as all of the Fab Four

You did very well in impersonating Ramos and Erap. Did they ever express appreciation—or misgiving?

Ramos was most appreciative, and enjoyed rebutting my statements. I believe he's a hands-on guy when it comes to his public image. Erap seems as down-to-earth as he comes, but is actually difficult to decipher. He flip-flops on what pleases and/or displeases him.

Which were the funniest/silliest among the TV commercials in the last elections?

Villar's and Pichay's. *Eww!*

Why do you think some politicians act smart and then commit the most stupid mistakes?

Those politicians think they're smart because they believe every single word they say or do. The problem is, we don't.

Do you feel GMA is not good for your career because you can't impersonate her?

I don't feel a need to do an impression of GMA. She's been getting bad ones already from almost all sectors. That'll be an overkill.

Who among the senators-elect are the top candidates for your next act and why?

The ones I'm eyeing—they all lost, *eh!*

Which recent political or show biz events are lampoon material, in your opinion?

Current events are almost always "interesting" reincarnations of past ones. Only the personalities change—from Garci to Bedol, Ver to Palparan. It's getting harder to find an event that's interesting to parody. How can you lampoon a lampoon like (Raul) Gonzalez, or like (Norberto) Gonzales?

What do you think of Michael V as an impersonator?

I think he's a creative guy and is most effective with his caricatures ... *at masipag mag*-experiment. *Sana bumanat din siya.*

Do you think the kind of edgy comedy pioneered by the late Lenny Bruce or Richard Pryor will work here?

I surmise the Lenny Bruce type of comedy can find an audience only in very small exclusive clubs in Manila. His style is too cerebral for mass consumption and too "dirty" for the establishment. I consider him a legend but don't think I can follow in his footsteps. I dread the thought of eventually leading the life of a starving artist on account of that brand of edgy comedy. George Carlin, *pwede pa siguro.*

Why is comedy a good way to expose people's foibles?

Comedy is always an acceptable entry point to any subject. It's not confrontational, even if it's biting at times. It sort of gives the subject more space and time to check his conscience and hopefully turn for the better. The context of *biruan* and *kantiyaw* is very Filipino. Lately, though, I kinda feel it's no longer as effective as it used to be. *Marami nang kapalmuks.*

What can we look forward to in your show at Music Museum?

"Feelin' Las Vegas" will cater mostly to the baby boomers, who are this generation's big spenders and bosses of companies. They're the ones who grew up with the music of those I'll be showcasing. They are the ones who can afford to buy back "even just memories" of their times.

Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Cliff Richard and Tony Bennett will share the same stage for one night only.

And for once, my show will have absolutely no politics. But only for that night.

Congratulations to the winners of the recently concluded

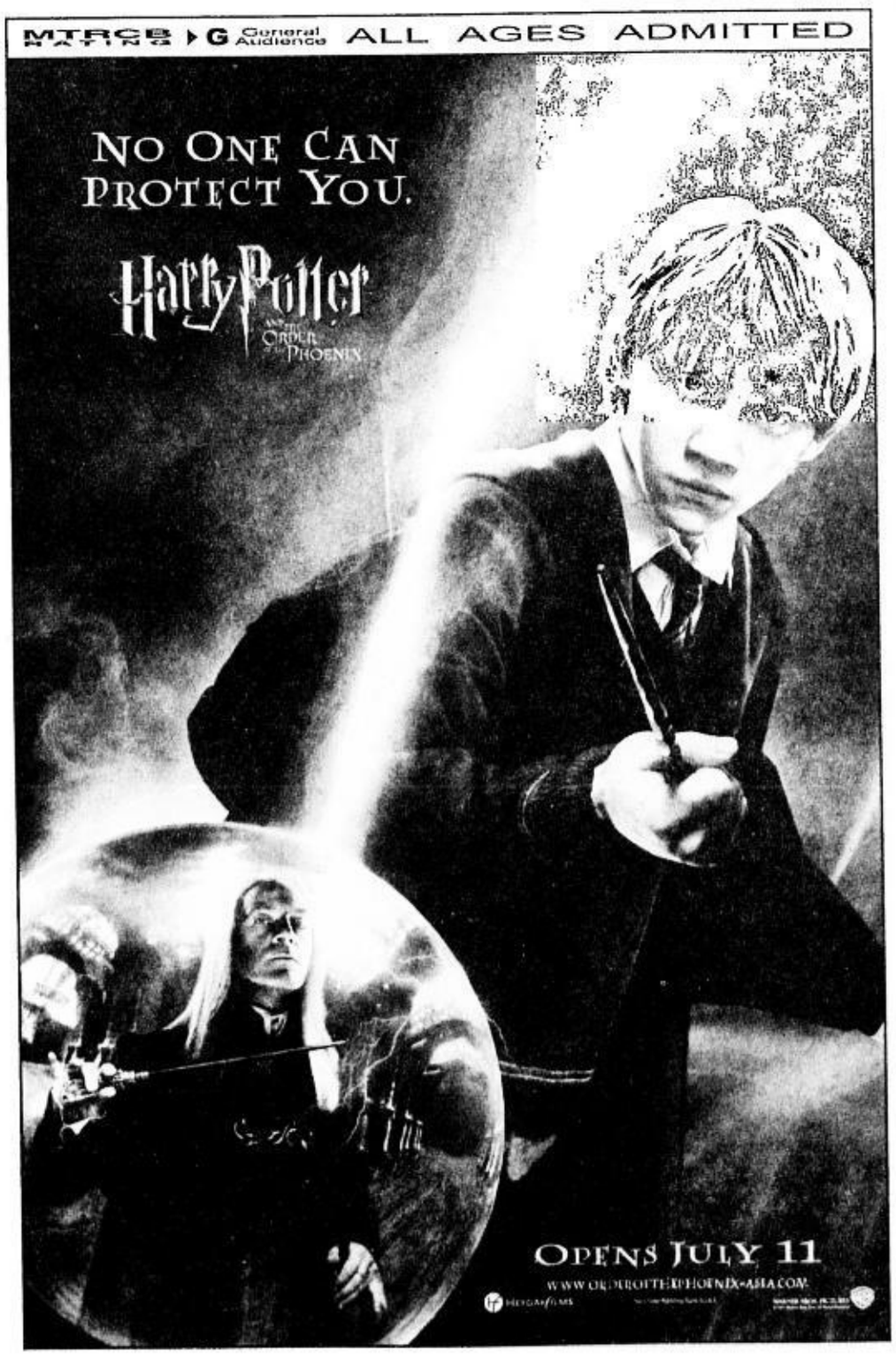
OCEAN'S THIRTEEN Newspaper Countdown

May 24 - Roland Rodriguez
May 25 - Joseph Yu
May 26 - Melvin Campo
May 27 - Arthur Yap
May 28 - Hylyn Tiu
May 29 - Riza Nemil
May 30 - Rowena Wendy Lei
May 31 - Jeremy Rodriguez
June 01 - Roanne Valeria Lim
June 02 - Teresita Samson
June 03 - Adrian Elgario
June 04 - Trina Melissa Federis
June 05 - Mark Lauren Lim

You may pick up your Ocean's 13 gift pack courtesy of Warner Bros. *at L4 Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Ortigas Ave., QC from Mondays thru Fridays 10AM to 6PM. Please proceed to the Cinema 5 Operations Office.*
For file purposes, please submit a photocopy of your ID with picture (school or company ID, SSS, driver's license, credit card with photo, passport) Please look for Winston Olarte or Gemma Navarro.

For those winners which are more accessible to our other branch, please advise thru email what branch you want us to forward your gift back.

MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED



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11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	FEW SEATS	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	FEW SEATS	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM Admission Prices: P 350
T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM Admission Prices: P 250
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO
PREMIERE CINEMA DIE HARD 4
CENTERSTAGE TRANSFORMERS
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1 DIE HARD 4
CINEMA 2 TRANSFORMERS 633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 PARAISO
10 TIYANAKS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DIE HARD 4
2 PARAISO
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 TIYANAKS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PARAISO
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 DIE HARD 4
8 TIYANAKS
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 NEXT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 NEXT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 PARAISO
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 TIYANAKS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 DIE HARD 4
7 PARAISO
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 INVISIBLES

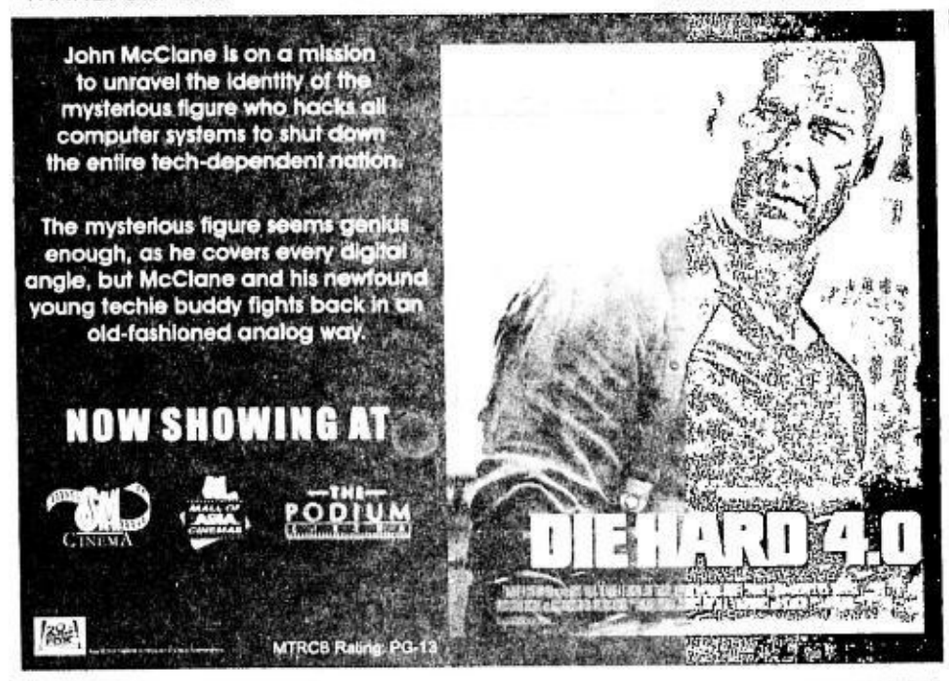
SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 NEXT
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 TIYANAKS
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS



SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TIYANAKS
7 PARAISO
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 PARAISO

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1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

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3 TIYANAKS
4 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

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2 DIE HARD 4
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS

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2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 THE SHOOTER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 INVISIBLES
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TIYANAKS

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TIYANAKS
2 CONDEMNED
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 PARAISO
4 TIYANAKS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 PARAISO

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 DIE HARD 4
2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 INVISIBLES
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 RESERVED
8 PARAISO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 DIE HARD 4
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PARAISO
6 TIYANAKS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4
3 INVISIBLES
4 TRANSFORMERS

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Gretchen after the picture-imperfect scandal

GRETCHEN BARRETTO

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

GRETCHEN BARRETTO SENT ME THIS text from the US, where she is accompanying her beloved **Tonyboy Cojuangco** for a medical checkup: "Eighty to ninety percent of Tony's *papilloma* removed. His airway is clear and he will [undergo] surgery in four weeks. We'll be flying back to Manila in no time. I have not left Tony's side since the so-called forbidden kiss photo. I have put all else aside since he needs recovery.

"I can't imagine a day without Tony in my life. I may have been naughty or a bit out of control but never did I think of altering my whole relationship with Tony. We have weathered countless storms in our 13 years together.

"The journey was and is never easy when you want to [stay] together. Trying to stay together no matter what and waking up each morning knowing you still have each other is victory itself."

The foundation of Greta and Tonyboy's love is too solid to be shaken by intrigues. Just as Tonyboy is on the way to recovery, so is their relationship after the picture-imperfect scandal.

Sinner or saint?

Cesar Montano is back from the US. He went straight to his hometown in Bohol. I texted his wife **Sunshine** to ask if they have made peace after the Air Force 1 issue. Her reply: "I didn't join Buboy. The kids and I are here in Manila. I think his saying that he had gone to that bar for research is only making the intrigues worse."

I texted Buboy about it but he hasn't replied. Knowing the couple, they will patch things up eventually. Some quarters reacted to my item. "How can Buboy just have good clean fun in a girly joint?" I retorted, "Not everybody who goes to church is a saint and not every one who goes to a girly bar is a sinner."

Mysterious mistress

Tita Nena (Amalia Fuentes) is bent on nailing the paramour of her hubby **Tito Joey** (Stevens). She says she will soon be off to Cebu to search for the mysterious mistress named **Angie**.

"I just want to see her face to face," Tita Nena tells me. "I'll talk to her in a civil way. Joey insists it's just a fling. If they are doing nothing wrong, why are they hiding? They are blatantly disregarding my feelings!

"Joey is like a dog who had a bone but wanted more than he could chew. If that woman has the decency to leave him, then he'll be alone. He's out of my house so his lover should build him a home for the aged."

Smart women like La Amalia know that men want to catch women and not be caught by them. She has mastered the art of war between lovers. Tita Nena has a wonderful life to live and Tito Joey has no more place in it.

Potter magic

I've always teased **Ryan Agoncillo** by calling him **Harry Potter**. True enough, when he tried to search for his celebrity look-alike in Myheritage.com, the result is always **Daniel Radcliffe** no matter what pic he submits. He needs no Potter magic, though, because he has found that with his ladylove **Juday**.

Another woman

I texted **Pia Guanio** to ask about her BF **Vic Sotto** being spotted at Thai at Silk in Serendra with another woman. She didn't reply. She either wants to ignore the issue, or settle matters with Vic privately.

Bosing's track record with women speaks for itself. But Pia can take comfort in the thought that he has publicly declared she would be his last love. Or are those famous last words?

Beauty secret

The red carpet extravaganza of Forever Flawless' 14th branch opening (SM Mall of Asia) was led by **Lorna Tolentino**. Teen endorsers **Mark Herras**, **Yasmien Kurdi** and **Pauleen Luna** added glitter to the event.

The branch staff is headed by doctors **Jundier Domingo** and **Leilanie Sy**.

Personal

Kudos to the wonderful hosts of "Buhay Pinoy" (RPN 9, Mondays 10 a.m.)—**Patty** and **Jaimie Santos**—and their producer **Jo Salcedo** on the third anniversary of their informative show. Highlight of the anniversary celebration was the awarding of the 10 Dangal Pinoy and 6 Outstanding Public Servants. *C'est la* Pinay!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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DIE HARD 4 12:10 / 1:00 / 2:00 / 2:50 / 3:40 / 4:40 / 5:30 / 6:20 / 7:20 / 8:10/ 9:00 / 10:00
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
TIYANAKS
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
TRANSFORMERS 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
Ali Mall 5
1 TRANSFORMERS 11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
2 DIE HARD 4 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
4 PARAISO 1:10 / 3:35 / 6:00 / 8:25
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2 TRANSFORMERS 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50 G
3 DIE HARD 4.0 1:55, 5:05, 8:15, 11:25 PG-13
4 TRANSFORMERS 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 G

AT THE CINEMAS
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GLORIETTA 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 DIE HARD 4.0	4 TIYANAKS
GLORIETTA 4	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 TRANSFORMERS
GREENBELT 1	1 TRANSFORMERS	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 DIE HARD 4.0	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 TRANSFORMERS
MARKET! MARKET!	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 TIYANAKS		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	
TRINOMA	1 TIYANAKS	2 TRANSFORMERS	3 TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4.0	7 THX DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
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Glorietta - 752 7272 · Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54 · Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860 · Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324 · Market! Market! - 886 7519 · TriNoma - 901 3000
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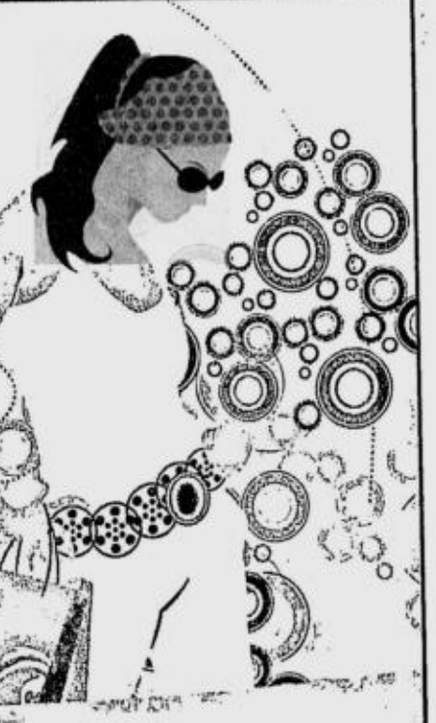
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Just a thought: 'Mano Po 7: Crying Lady in Shaolin Temple'

By the Inquirer Entertainment staff

RUSHES

THE QUESTION: WHAT IS IT about Viva that allows it to work with two television giants, ABS-CBN and GMA 7?

Since the occasion was to promote his company's latest co-prod with GMA 7, Viva EVP Vincent Del Rosario's reply was very Kapuso-friendly: "It's great to work with the leader. GMA and Viva [have] the same vision."

Does this give credence to the rumor that ABS-CBN and Viva had a misunderstanding over the less-than glowing box-office performance of their collaboration, "Paano Kita Iibigin," starring Regine Velasquez and Piolo Pascual?

Del Rosario insisted that "Paano" was doing fine and might even make as much as "Till I Met You" (an earlier Viva-Kapuso project) after its provincial run.

Right.

Amalia takes a break

AMALIA FUENTES

Having announced that her marriage with Joey Stevens was on the rocks, 1960s movie queen Amalia Fuentes hied off to Hong Kong with son Gerard. Says a close friend, "She wants a break from intrigues." She will be back before the weekend—apparently just in time for TV chat shows clamoring for interviews. We're tuning in already.

Broken home

The sitcom "Bahay Mo Ba To?" will have its final airing on July 15. This was reported by Lolit Solis, who also said the cast had been caught by surprise.

GMA 7 has yet to confirm the news but, at press time, neither can we find anyone from the show to deny it.

Star Tessie Tomas is still in Britain, visiting her husband Roger Pullin's children; and co-star Tiya Pusit is recovering from an eye operation.

Mega fetes Juday

SHARON CUNETA

Sharon Cuneta threw a party for Judy Ann Santos at the Teatrino in Greenhills on Sunday.

The bash was a triple treat—a belated birthday blowout for Juday, who turned 29 last May 11; a gift for Juday's 20th anniversary in show biz; and a thank-you for Juday and boyfriend Ryan Agoncillo who campaigned for Mega's husband Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Mega got Juday's favorite band, Session Road, to play all night. But Mega's daughters Frankie and Miel were the evening's showstoppers.

'Mature' romantic comedy

Speaking of Mega, she is set to meet with GMA Films and scriptwriter-director Jose Javier Reyes, for a planned film with Robin Padilla—a "mature" romantic comedy (as opposed to "immature" romantic comedy, the norm), an insider says. Meanwhile, is Mega still working on that interview with Jet Li, her longtime crush?

To clinch that, she may just try to learn Mandarin, or shave her head. Or maybe commission Mother Lily as translator—then as producer of another "mature" romance/martial arts epic. How does this sound? "Mano Po 7: Crying Lady in Shaolin Temple."

'Come Together' icon

Speaking of Jet Li: His ad for San Miguel Beer launches the "Come Together" visual icon, a male figure in a martial arts stance. SMC says this is to mark the coming together of two Asian symbols.

And who sang in it?

News leak: "Songs of Love and Healing," an album of covers credited to Kris Aquino, is expected to reach the platinum mark (30,000 copies sold) this week. The producers insist it turned gold (15,000 copies) two weeks ago. How could it fail? For the record, the songs in the collection, already hits to start with, were performed by Jed Madela and Gail Blanco.

Never on Sunday

Report: Jennylyn Mercado annoyed Regal producer Lily Monteverde by failing to attend a press conference for "Tiyanaks." The actress' camp says they were not informed of the event, which took place on a Sunday.

Public support, private betrayal

In her TV appearances, this controversial female celebrity never fails to express support/sympathy for a friend who went through a major scandal like she did.

Privately, however, she takes every opportunity to badmouth the beleaguered friend—even calling her (censored)! "Libidinous" is too technical?

Uninvited

Regine and Piolo were allowed to cross network lines to promote their last movie on both GMA 7 and ABS-CBN. This same courtesy is apparently not being extended to Jolina Magdangal by her former Kapamilya. The grapevine says Jolens is barred from promoting GMA-Viva's "Ouija" on ABS-CBN.

Joey Abacan, GMA Films exec, vowed, "We will not force them to open their doors to us."

***

Top of the talk shows

And for those who missed the celebrity chat programs last weekend:

•On "Showbiz Central," John Lapus went on and on about a love triangle that allegedly involved himself (herself?), a certain Jasper and Boy Abunda. Lapus later backtracked, saying his beau was Abunda's stalker.

•Lapus also insisted that, when he was thinner and younger, he looked like Sheryl Cruz. When he hit 30 and gained weight, he said, he started looking like Jett Pangan. (Ergo, Sheryl is the plumper male version of Jett?)

•In came a visibly uncomfortable Sheryl, who forgot to greet John but remembered to promote her shows.

•Asked about her reported feud with Cristine Reyes, Katrina Halili bawled. As in, *waterworks*. In the midst of her hysterics, would you believe, she remembered to thank her dermatologist!

•Dennis Padilla vowed he would always be behind estranged wife Marjorie Barretto, who recently took her oath as Caloocan City councilor. "I can serve as her consultant," Dennis joked. Well, it sounded like a joke at first.

•Dennis' purported rival for Marjorie's heart, Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echeverri, denied rumors of an affair. "It's just that our team jelled." Curious word, that.

•Mum's the word. Marjorie deftly parried questions about sister Gretchen and Tonyboy Cojuangco. She slipped at one point, however, confirming that Gretchen was, indeed, in the US with Tonyboy.

Pledge of love

•Hoping to stop people from speculating, Ogie Alcasid summed up his feelings for Regine Velasquez in three short sentences: "Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for your patience. I promise you, everything will be all right."

•Maricel Soriano said she didn't collect a talent fee for the movie "Paraiso," *not* because she had an eye on politics. She told the hosts of "The Buzz": "Money is not everything."

•Rosanna Roces' loose lips keep her in the headlines. She said she once tried to kill herself by taking the anti-depressant drug Stilnox three times a day, downing a total of 200 tablets. It didn't work, obviously.

ROSANNA ROCES

•She also told Boy Abunda that she used to stay locked up in her room for days, "*pag nakikita ko ang mga bayarin ko.*"

Elsewhere

Actress Maggie Q stars with Bruce Willis in "Die Hard 4.0." She revealed in an interview: "A lot of the choreography here was based on Philippine martial arts; it is very smooth and fluid."

MAGGIE Q

OPENING TODAY

Sindié

Stars Ricky Pascua, JP Policarpio, Carla Lozada, Tony Pabia, etc.

Directed by Me-Ann Mortis, Alberto Montreras, Donnie Sacueza, etc.

A pet project of GMA Artist Center, "Sindié" or "Ang Pagsisimula sa Indie" is a showcase of 14 films produced during the network's summer filmmaking workshops. Among the teachers are independent filmmakers Jon Red and Paolo Villaluna. The full-production workshops teach participants how to direct, write, light, edit and produce short films, utilizing the actors who enrolled in the acting workshops. Among the shorts are "Katha," "Saka," "Otra Ves," "Lea," "Batang Bato," and "Photo Express." Exclusively in IndieSine Robinsons Galleria.

Die Hard 4.0 (Live Free or Die Hard)

Stars Bruce Willis, Justin Long, Timothy Olyphant, Maggie Q

Directed by Len Wiseman

It has almost been two decades since the first and 12 years since the third and yet the fourth installment of this action franchise still features New York's finest John McClane (Willis), slugging it out with terrorists and dodging bullets and bombs. Lou Lumenick of New York Post raves: "[It's] solidly crowd-pleasing ... relies on old-school stunt work rather than CGI." Kenneth Turan of Los Angeles Times agrees: "It has one of the most convoluted writing credits in memory ... [but] the result is a shrewd, serviceable premise that feels uncomfortably real." Steven Rea of Philadelphia Inquirer rants: "[It] has its share of wild stunts and spectacular carnage, but it feels pokey and predictable, too."

Paraiso: Tatlong Kuwento ng Pag-Asa

Stars Maricel Soriano, Michael V, Carmi Martin, Cesar Montano

Directed by Jun Lana, Joel Ruiz, Ricky Davao

From the files of Gawad Kalinga comes this trilogy of stories about Filipinos whose lives were changed for the better by the award-winning nongovernmental organization. "Umiyak Pati Langit" centers on a mother who loses a child in the Leyte landslide. "Ang Kapatid Kong si Elvis" focuses on a runaway who eats rocks for food. "Marie" recounts how a Filipino-American is moved to build GK villages to fulfill the wish of his wife who perished in the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Graded B by the Cinema Evaluation Board, this film has raised P200 million in screenings in over 20 cities in the United States and in more than 10 countries in Europe. Says producer Butch Jimenez: "It's about the heroism in every Filipino."

Tiyanaks

Stars Rica Peralejo, Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, JC de Vera, Lotlot de Leon

Directed by Mark Reyes

A gang of young people gets lost en route to a retreat house. Later, they are attacked by this thriller's titular monsters—hungry little creatures that disguise themselves as seemingly innocent children abandoned in the woods. In making this movie, Herras almost drowned in a scene shot in a well. "Regal's horror movies are bound to become classics," says Herras. Co-star Mercado continues her reinvention as an actress who can do action in horror flicks. She has supposedly mastered archery to make her character believable. "Unlike in the original, the *tiyanaks* in my movie have evolved into kids—not just babies," director Reyes asserts. "Our film also benefits from advances made in computer-generated effects."

Reality dance tilt back . . . From page E1

even schooled in dance. Why do we always get talents just from Manila when there are many others out there?"

The contestants who hurdled the provincial auditions have been flown to Manila and billeted in a hotel. Those who will be eliminated will be sent home the next day.

Fifteen pairs were picked to compete in the "Celebrity Showdown" segment, while 18 groups will slug it out in the "Sayaw Barangay" category. Juror Jhong Hilario facilitated the group auditions.

Bichara said all 15 celebrity contestants have a background in ballroom dancing but are still undergoing training.

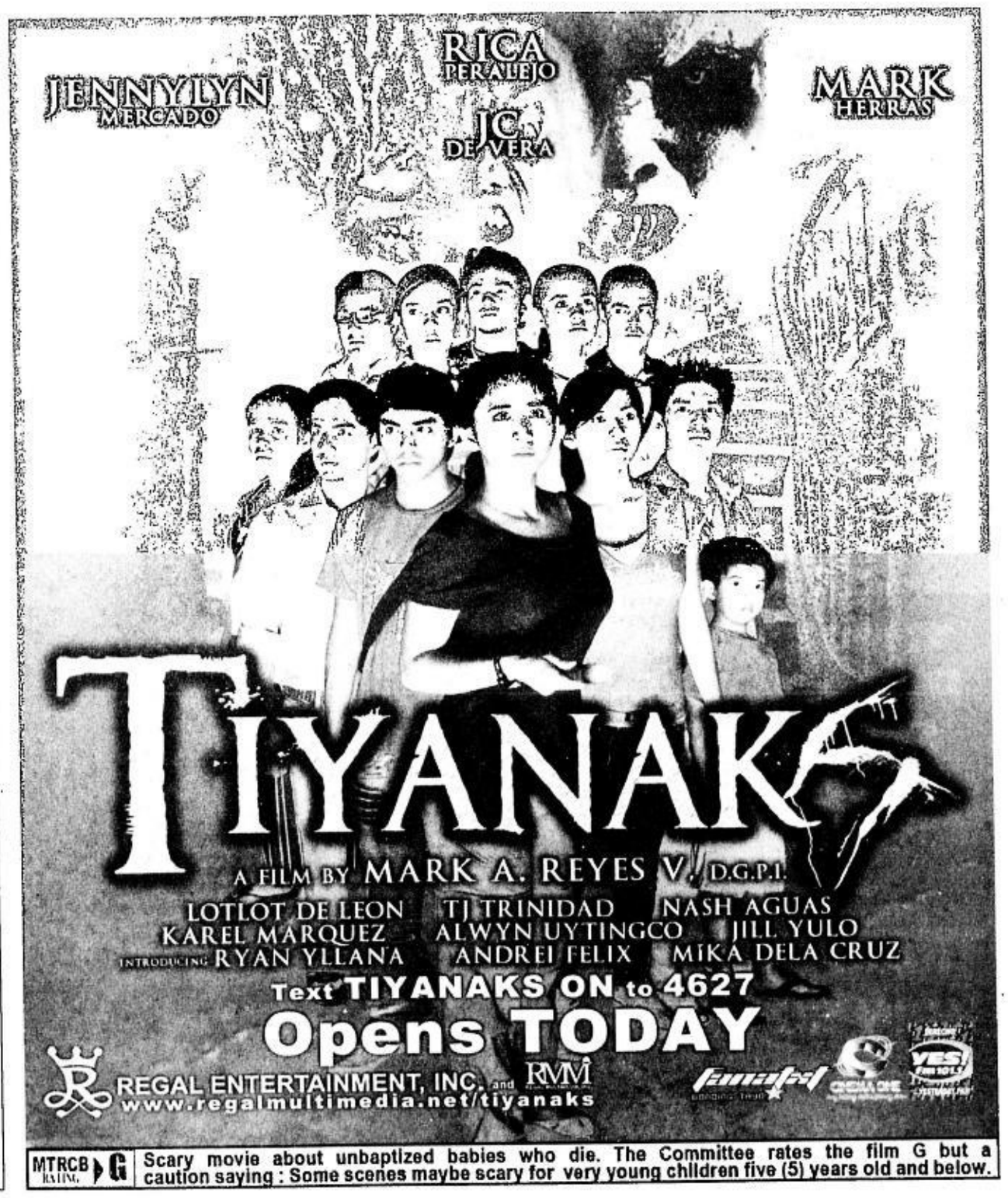
"In the coming weeks, we will see their transformation," she said. "We will see their individuality emerge."

But Bichara clarified that the show will not be "strictly ballroom dancing" as we know it. She explained: "We will have fusion dance, or the incorporation of samba, jazz, salsa, jive and tango into ballroom dancing. We want the contestants to enjoy, have fun with their partners."

One or two pairs competing in the "Celebrity Showdown" category will be eliminated each week.

"We will also have our own version of the wild-card round," said Bichara. "We don't want to fully discuss the process of elimination right now, because we want the contestants to always be on their toes."

"U Can Dance" airs Saturday nights, with Iya Villania and Derek Ramsey as hosts.



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PRINCE Harry, left, watches a dancing Prince William AFP

Princes William and Harry pay tribute to their mother at a huge concert on what would have been her 46th birthday

NELLY FURTADO

DONNY OSMOND

JOSH Groban and Sarah Brightman AFP

It's about all that she loved

LONDON—WAVING THEIR ARMS IN THE air, rocking their hips and cheering along with around 70,000 fans at London's Wembley Stadium, Princes William and Harry paid tribute to their mother, Princess Diana, at a concert Sunday on what would have been her 46th birthday.

SIMON COWELL

The brothers strode onstage to greet fans at the venue—and millions more watching the event on television worldwide.

"This evening is about all that my mother loved in life: her music, her dance, her charities and her family and friends," said William, 25.

Harry added a special message for the Household Cavalry, his army unit, currently serving in Iraq.

"I wish I was there with you. I'm sorry I can't be. But to all of those on operations at the moment, we'd both like to say stay safe," he said.

Harry, a second lieutenant in the regiment, was barred from going to Iraq for security reasons.

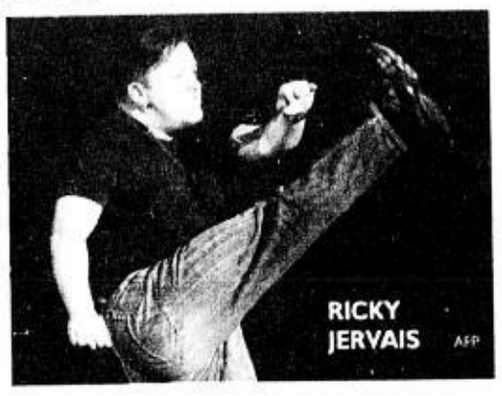
World leaders, celebrities, comedians and those linked to Diana's charitable work chimed in with tributes in prerecorded videos played during breaks between the six-hour concert's musical acts.

Fans cheered as the princes introduced their mother's favorite band, Duran Duran.

"Pray for sun!" Duran Duran lead singer Simon LeBon said, as the gray clouds over Wembley Stadium, Britain's biggest sports arena, parted after weeks of soggy weather. The band broke into "Sunrise," followed by "Wild Boys," which they dedicated to the princes, and "Rio," which they dedicated to Diana.

FROM left, Prince William, Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes and Prince Harry AFP

William rotated his hips and threw up his arms as Nelly Furtado belted out a fiery rendition of "Man Eater"—to the apparent embarrassment of Harry, 22, who shook his head and laughed.



RICKY JERVAIS AFP

ELTON JOHN

CARLOS SANTANA AFP

A PRINCE Harry fan AFP

PHIL COLLINS AFP

KANYE West, left, with Prince Harry. AFP

ROD STEWART AFP

Kate Middleton, William's former girlfriend, also attended the concert, further fueling rumors that the couple, who announced their split in April, have reconciled.

British media have reported the couple have reunited following their split in April. William's Clarence House office declined to comment on the reports.

Among the 24 performances were sets by Rod Stewart, Kanye West and P. Diddy, who performed an emotive rendition of "Missing You," a cover of The Police's 1983 "Every Breath You Take."

"Ten years ago Princess Diana, she went to a better place, and today we celebrate her rebirth," Diddy said. "I love you Diana, we miss you."

Pop songs and rap ballads at the concert were rounded out by an excerpt from "Swan Lake," performed by the English National Ballet, and a selection from Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals.

Ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who recorded a video greeting, paid tribute to William and Harry—the second and third in line to the British throne, respectively. *AP*

JOSS Stone, left, with Prince Harry AFP

Let us learn from Gretchen, Marjorie, Assunta and Ruffa

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAWO

FEEDBACK

FROM TIA SALONGA (VIA E-MAIL):

As a Filipino woman, I am saddened by how Filipino celebrities behave.

Women are historically disadvantaged across the globe because many societies are patriarchal. The Philippines, however, boasts of a woman holding the most powerful public position. Yet the culture, at large, appears to embrace the subservient role of women.

For example, Regine Velasquez proclaims that she is willing to give up her career to be with Ogie Alcasid. Why does having a relationship, or marriage, or family make some women give up their hard-earned career? Regine truly disappoints in this regard, especially because she is a far more successful artist than Ogie Alcasid.

It's a real shame, this mentality that it's admirable for a woman to turn her back on a career ... for a man.

It's about time the Philippines celebrated women outside the traditional roles. It is such a great disservice to send out the message that the only desirable woman is the woman who is [content to be] a wife and mother.

Don't get me wrong, I believe that motherhood is one of the greatest tasks and that having a fulfilling relationship is infinitely valuable. However, a woman who takes a step back for a man no longer inspires.

Constant learning

Have we not learned enough from the lessons of Gretchen Barretto, Marjorie Barretto and Ruffa Gutierrez, to name a few? Let's forget gender for one second. Isn't it better if a lifetime partner has a life of his/her own that he/she can bring to the table? For a woman, the best way to achieve this is by constantly learning and playing an active role in society; by staying physically healthy and financially independent while also performing the roles of mother and partner. In the same way, she should expect her husband to take care of himself and be an informed and participatory parent.

Another point of contention is Lolit Solis' treatment of the Rosanna Roces and Rudy Fernandez issue. It's never good to be involved with someone in a relationship, let alone a marriage. But to rationalize Rudy Fernandez's behavior as "expected" is shameful. Rosanna Roces' lack of social awareness shows in the way she calls attention to a questionable action, but that is not in dispute. It is apparent that Filipino culture forgives men for infidelity but does not lend the same understanding to women.

It's sad when beautiful Filipina celebrities like Assunta De Rossi brag about what their rich husbands can buy them. The world is their oyster, yet they give the power back to men like it's nothing. How long would it take Assunta or Gretchen, and all others like them, to realize that they are worth more than the designer clothes they wear?

Requisites

My appeal to them: You don't have to save the world. But, at the very least, don't give the wrong message to the young women looking up to you. They should aspire for an education.

The government should step in and create laws that would require a minimum level of education before anyone can enter show business. One of the requisites should be a course on women's history and the significance of the feminist movement.